



KNUCKLES: THE RETURN
PART 3 OF 4

#11

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AUTHORITY

SEGA[®]

SONIC UNIVERSE[™]



*Tracy Yardley!
Hunzeker*

DIRECT EDITION

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Welcome to the planet Mobius – a world unique and beyond what you know from the SEGA games! Where Knuckles the Echidna, guardian of Angel Island, defends his friends and homeland from the forces of evil!

ANGEL ISLAND OVER
DOWNUNDA'S
GREAT CRATER



ECHOES of the PAST

PART THREE

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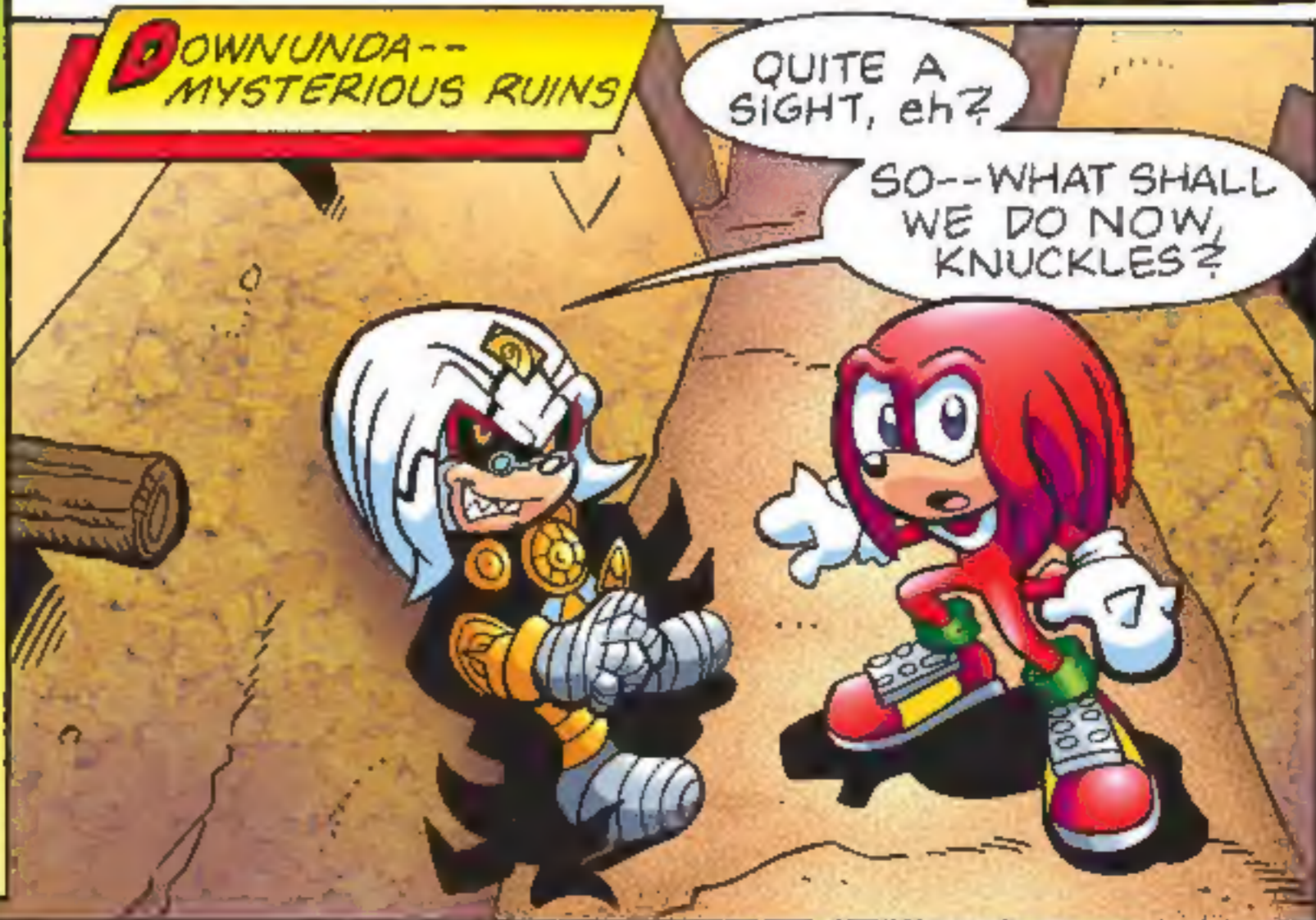
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DOWNUNDA--
MYSTERIOUS RUINS

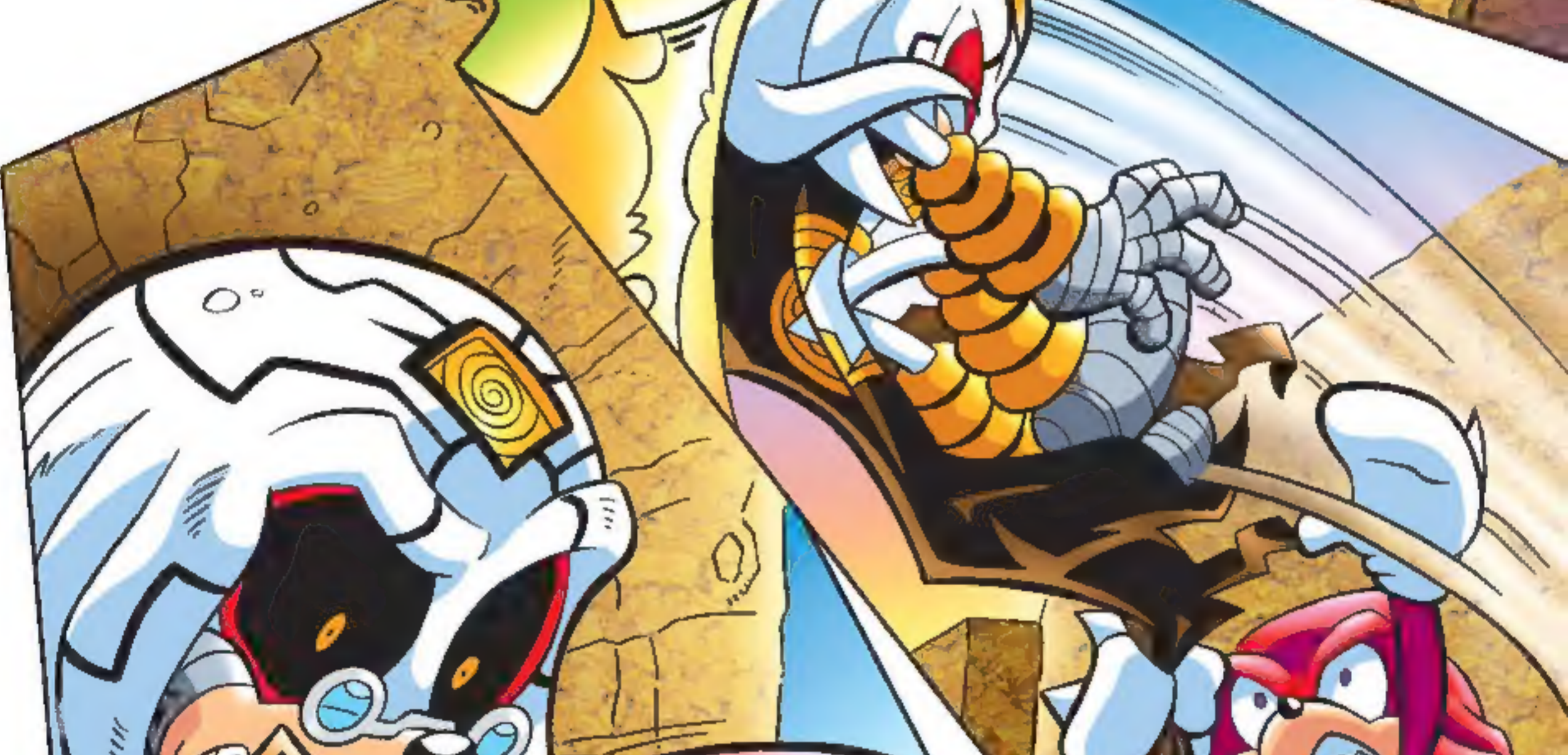
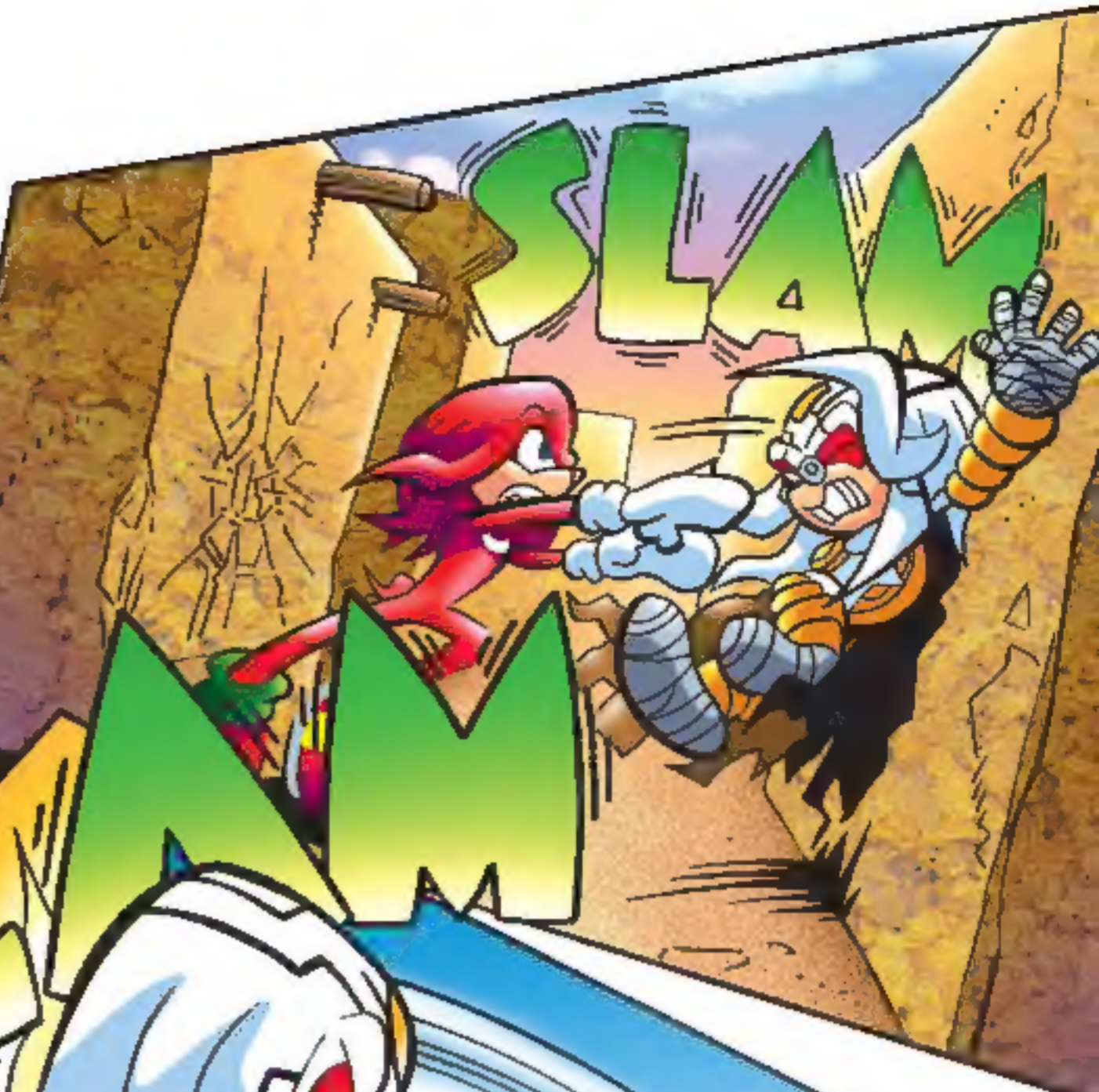
QUITE A
SIGHT, eh?

SO--WHAT SHALL
WE DO NOW,
KNUCKLES?





DR. FINITEVUS
EVIL SCIENTIST



KNUCKLES THE
ECHIDNA
GUARDIAN OF
ANGEL ISLAND

I KNOW
YOU'RE BEHIND
ALL THIS!

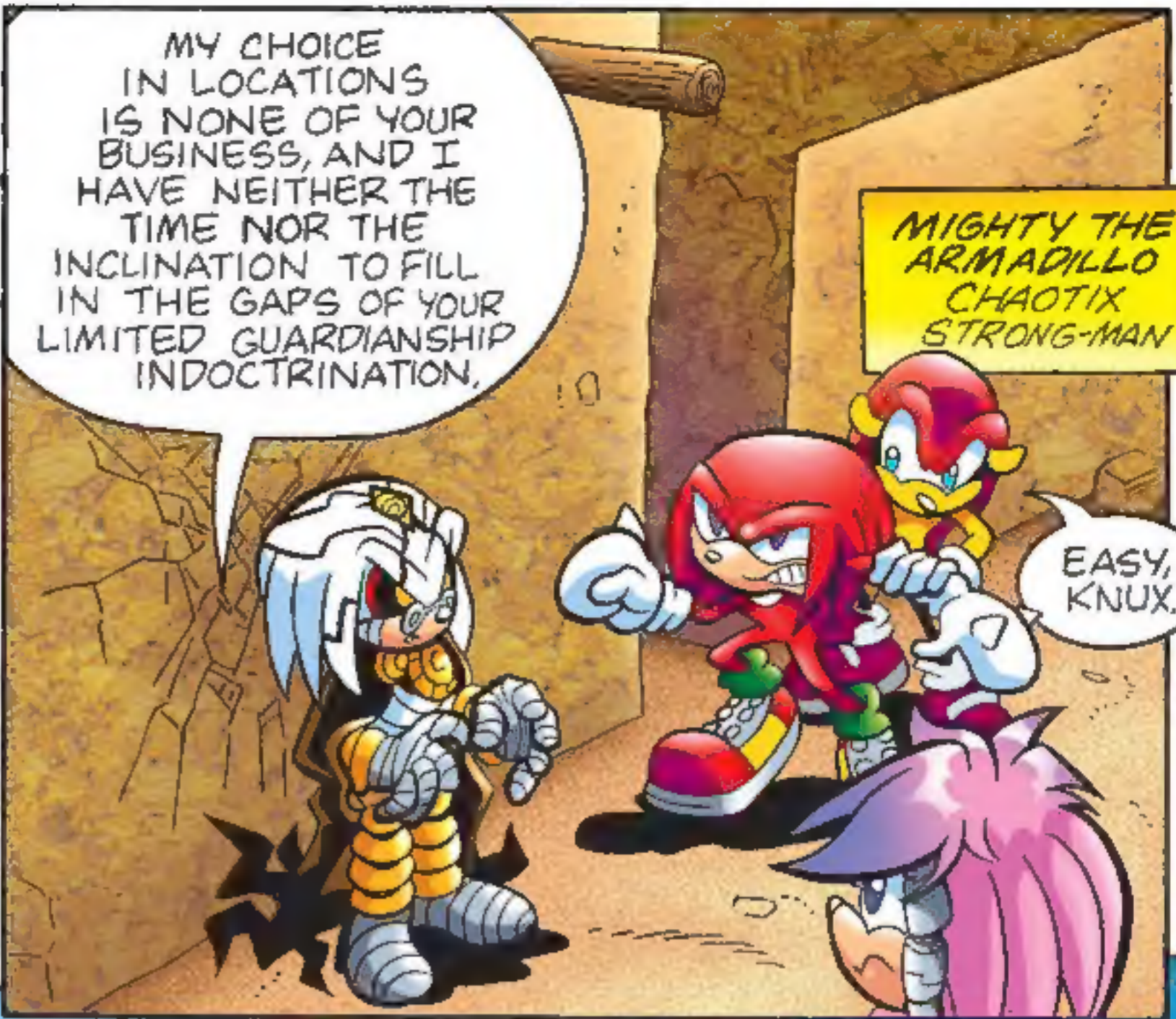
HOW DID
YOU ACTIVATE
THOSE CHAINS?
WHY IS YOUR LAB IN
A BUNCH OF RUINS
THAT SHOULDN'T
EXIST?

I WANT
ANSWERS!



AND YET YOU ASK USELESS QUESTIONS.

HOW COULD I HAVE ATTACKED ANGEL ISLAND WHILE YOU WERE THROWING ME INTO WALLS?



MY CHOICE IN LOCATIONS IS NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS, AND I HAVE NEITHER THE TIME NOR THE INCLINATION TO FILL IN THE GAPS OF YOUR LIMITED GUARDIANSHIP INDOCTRINATION.

MIGHTY THE ARMADILLO CHAOTIX STRONG-MAN

EASY, KNUX.



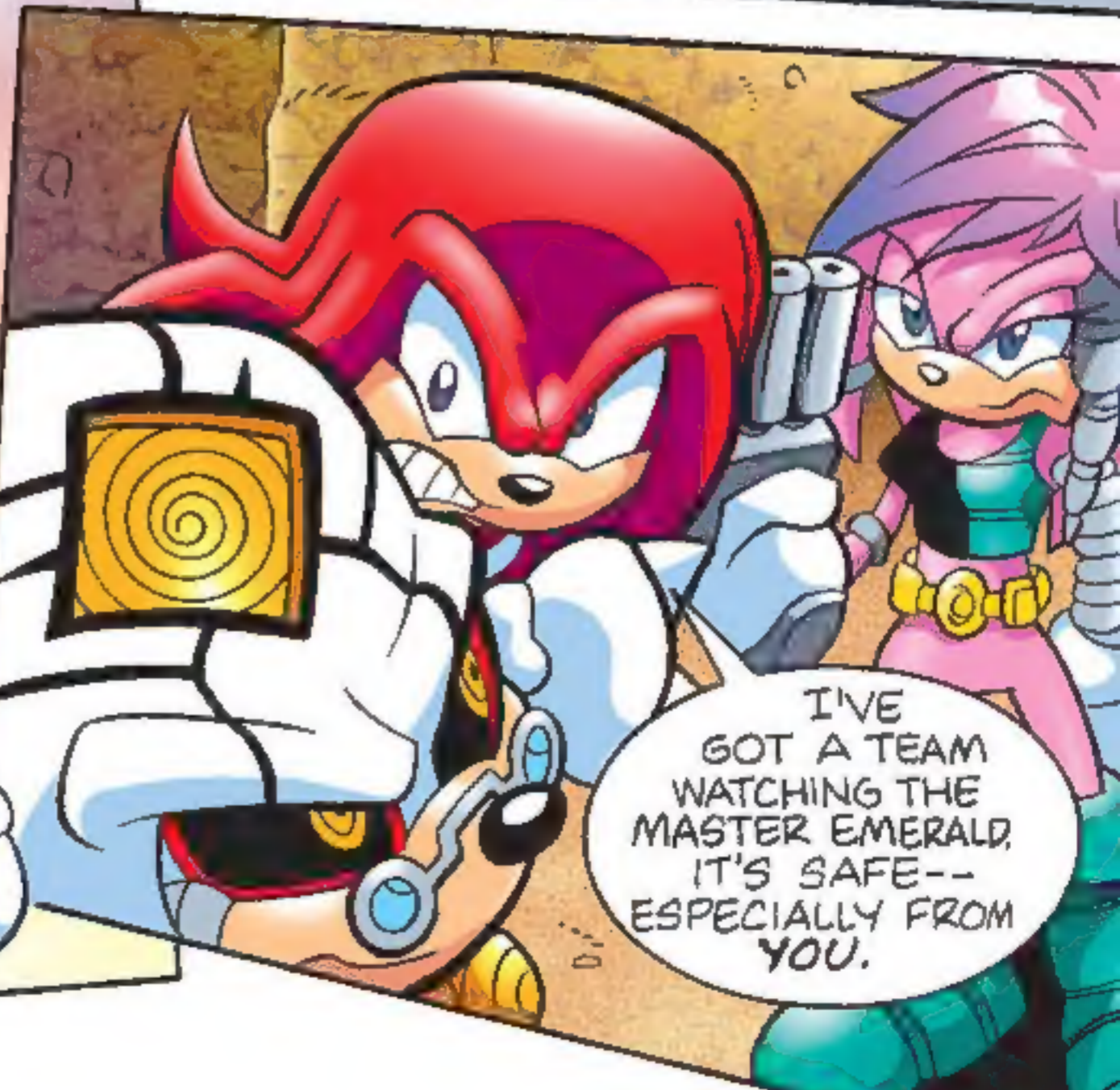
THE REAL QUESTIONS RIGHT NOW ARE, WHO DID THIS, AND HOW DO WE RESCUE YOUR PRECIOUS ISLAND?

AND WE SHOULD BELIEVE YOU CARE-- WHY?

JULIE-SU KNUCKLES' PARTNER



BECAUSE I NEED THE MASTER EMERALD TO FURTHER MY RESEARCH, IT IS AT RISK NOW, AND SO I AM DEEPLY CONCERNED.



I'VE GOT A TEAM WATCHING THE MASTER EMERALD, IT'S SAFE-- ESPECIALLY FROM YOU.



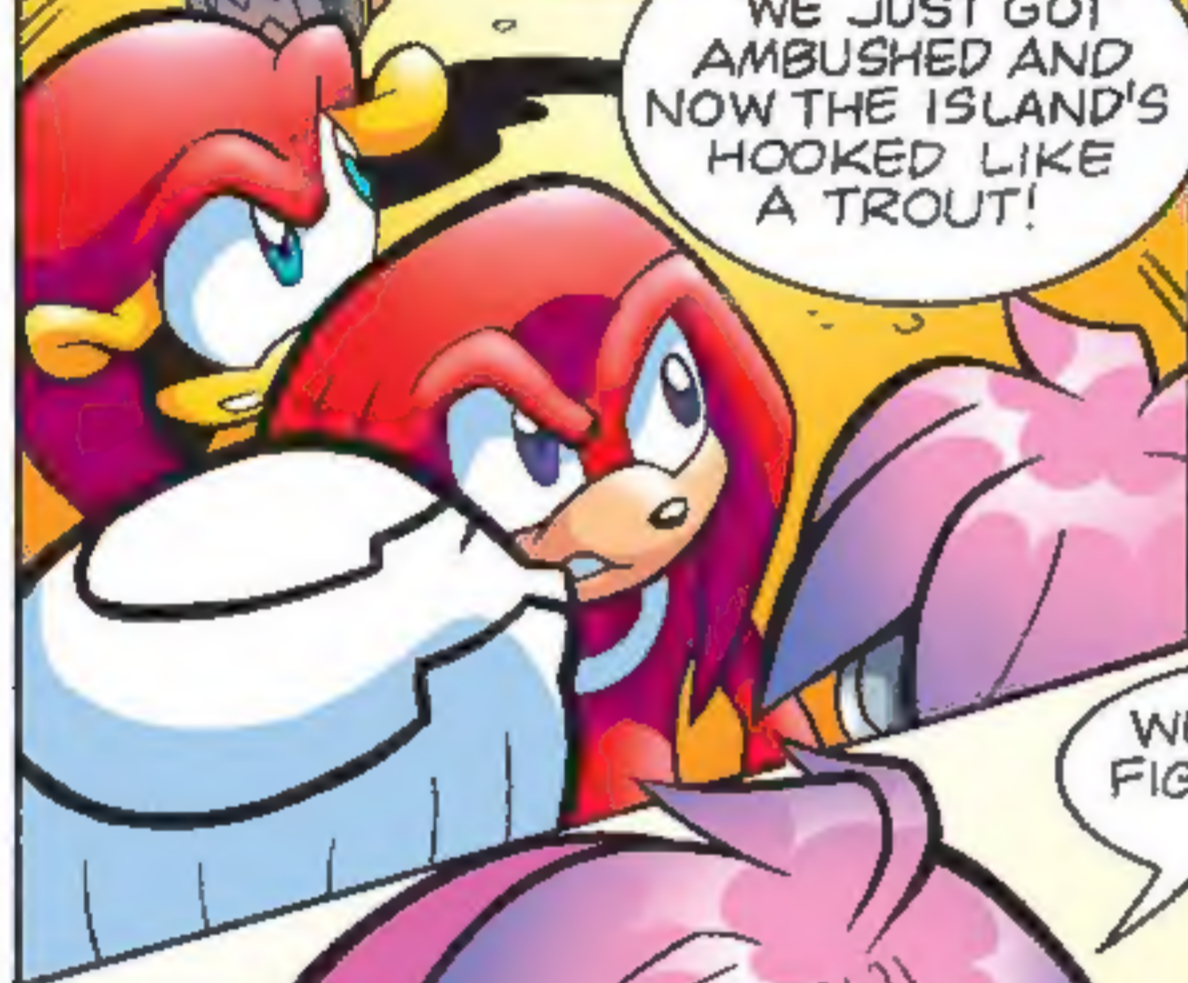
FWASH

DUDE!
WE JUST GOT
AMBUSHED AND
NOW THE ISLAND'S
HOOKED LIKE
A TROUT!



HEY! THAT'S
DR. FINITEVUS!

HAHAHA!
SAFE INDEED!



IS THERE
A REASON WE'RE
NOT POUNDING
THIS GUY INTO
SALSA?

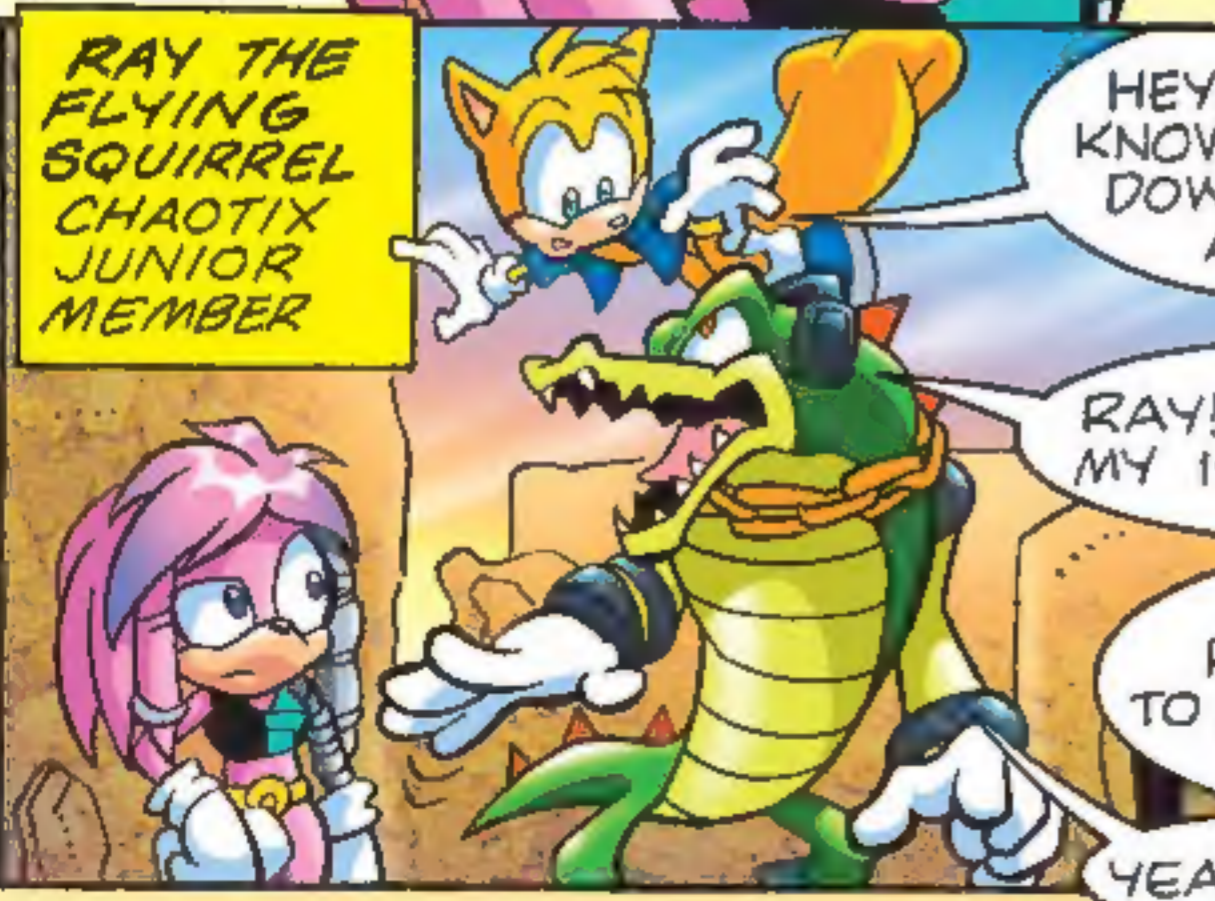
WE'RE STILL
FIGURING THAT
OUT.



OKAY.
I SAID
WE GOT JUMPED
BY A BUNCH
OF ROBOTS,
RIGHT?

**VECTOR THE
CROCODILE
CHAOTIX
DE FACTO LEADER**

**RAY THE
FLYING
SQUIRREL
CHAOTIX
JUNIOR
MEMBER**

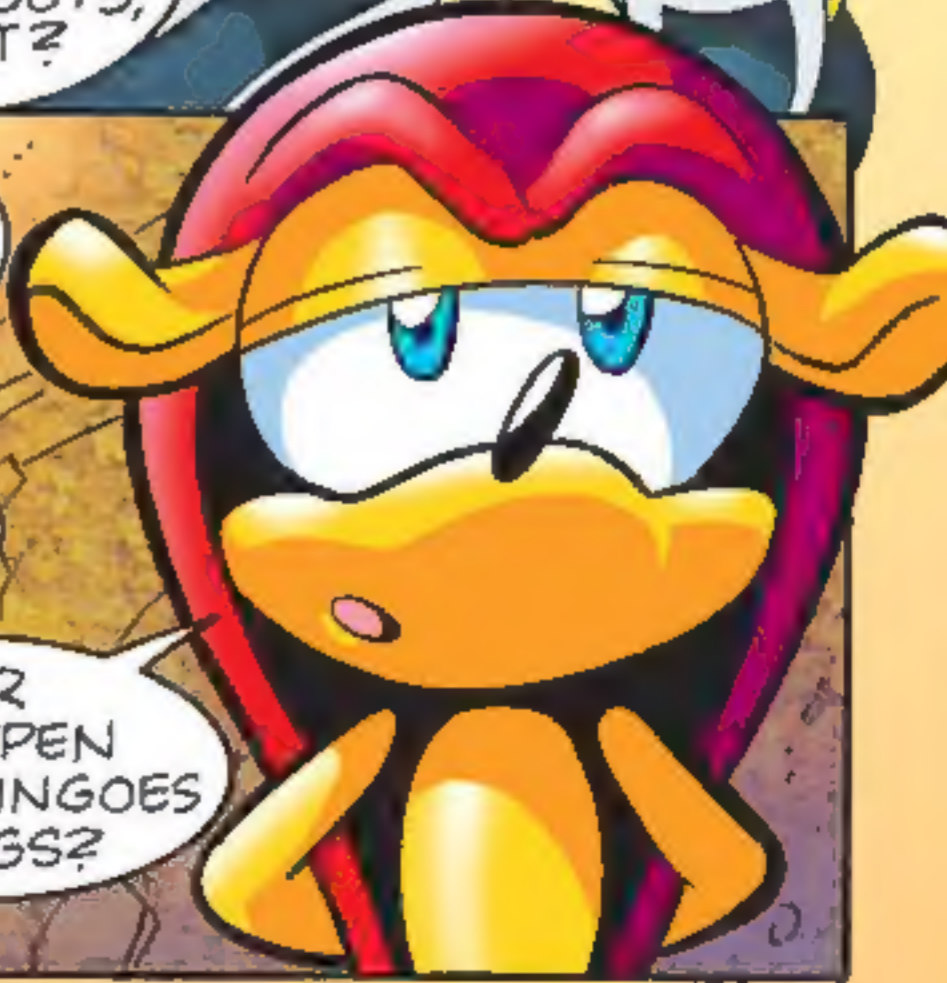


HEY, DO THEY
KNOW YOU LEFT
DOWNUNDA AS
A KID?

RAY! IXNAY ON
MY IISTORY-HAY!

DID YOUR
ROBOTS HAPPEN
TO LOOK LIKE DINGOES
WITH WINGS?

YEAH. WHY?





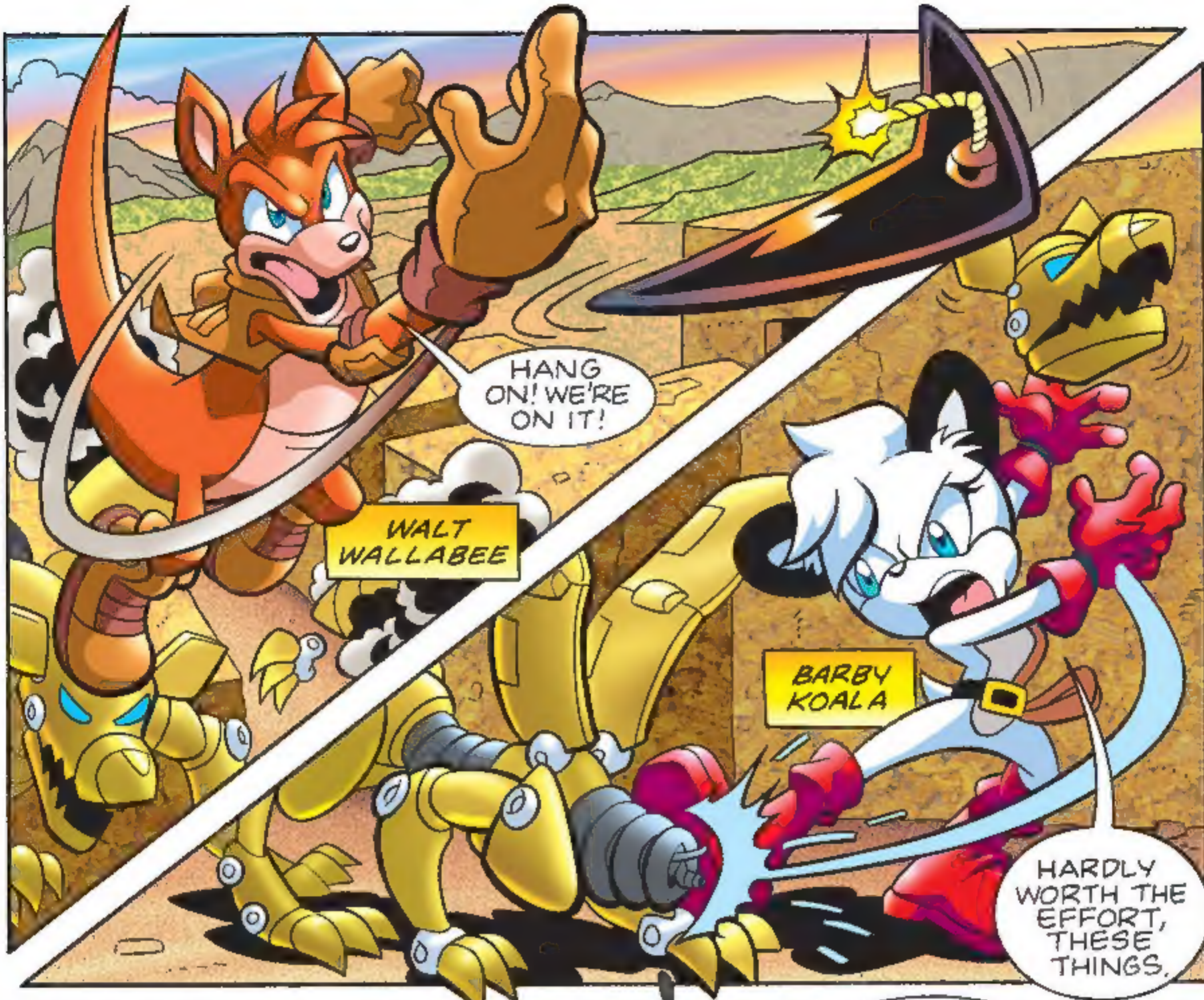
IT APPEARS WE'RE COMRADES FOR THE DURATION.

BECAUSE I THINK THEY FOLLOWED YOU HERE.

DON'T PUSH YOUR LUCK.

HERE THEY COME, CHAOTIX.

GET READY!



HANG ON! WE'RE ON IT!

WALT WALLABEE

BARBY KOALA

HARDLY WORTH THE EFFORT, THESE THINGS.



WOMBAT STU

DOESN'T MAKE 'EM ANY LESS FUN!

MIND IF I TAKE YOUR SHARE, MATE?

ALL YOURS, DUDE.

GURU EMU

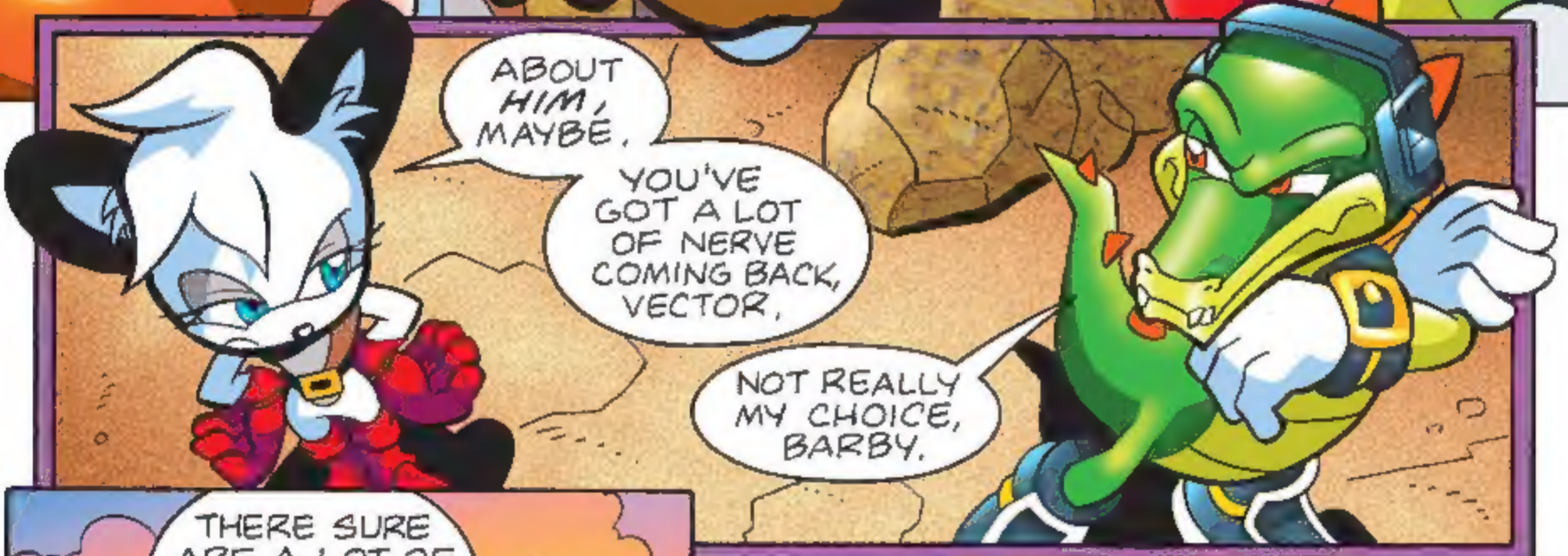
THRASH THE TASMANIAN DEVIL



WOW. NICE ENTRANCE, KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA AND THE CHAOTIX,

REALLY? I THOUGHT I HAD YOU PEGGED!

WALT WALLABEE OF THE DOWNUNDA FREEDOM FIGHTERS! WE'VE HEARD GOOD THINGS ABOUT YOU, MATE.



ABOUT HIM, MAYBE.

YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF NERVE COMING BACK, VECTOR,

NOT REALLY MY CHOICE, BARBY.



THERE SURE ARE A LOT OF ECHIDNAS ALL OF A SUDDEN.

I'M FEELIN' SOME SERIOUSLY HARSH VIBES HERE, DUDES.

AGREED. LET'S TAKE COVER AND GET EVERYONE ACQUAINTED.



GOOD IDEA.

SOON...

... SO CHARMY AND SAFFRON TOOK TIME TO LOOK FOR THEIR PEOPLE. OUR INVESTIGATION LED US HERE, AND VECTOR AND RAY JOINED US VIA WARP RING AFTER THE ROBOT ATTACK.

HAHA!
WOW!

ALL THE ENERJAK BUSINESS AND TAKING DOWN EGGMAN!

LOOKS LIKE I CAME HOME AT THE WRONG TIME.

IT MAKES OUR FIGHT LOOK LIKE NOTHING

COME ON, NOW. WE'VE HAD OUR SHARE OF PROBLEMS.

TOTALLY.

THE SPIRIT OF THE TEAM'S MAJORLY SUFFERING. THE DARK EGG LEGION IS THROWING OFF THE HARMONY OF THE WHOLE LAND.

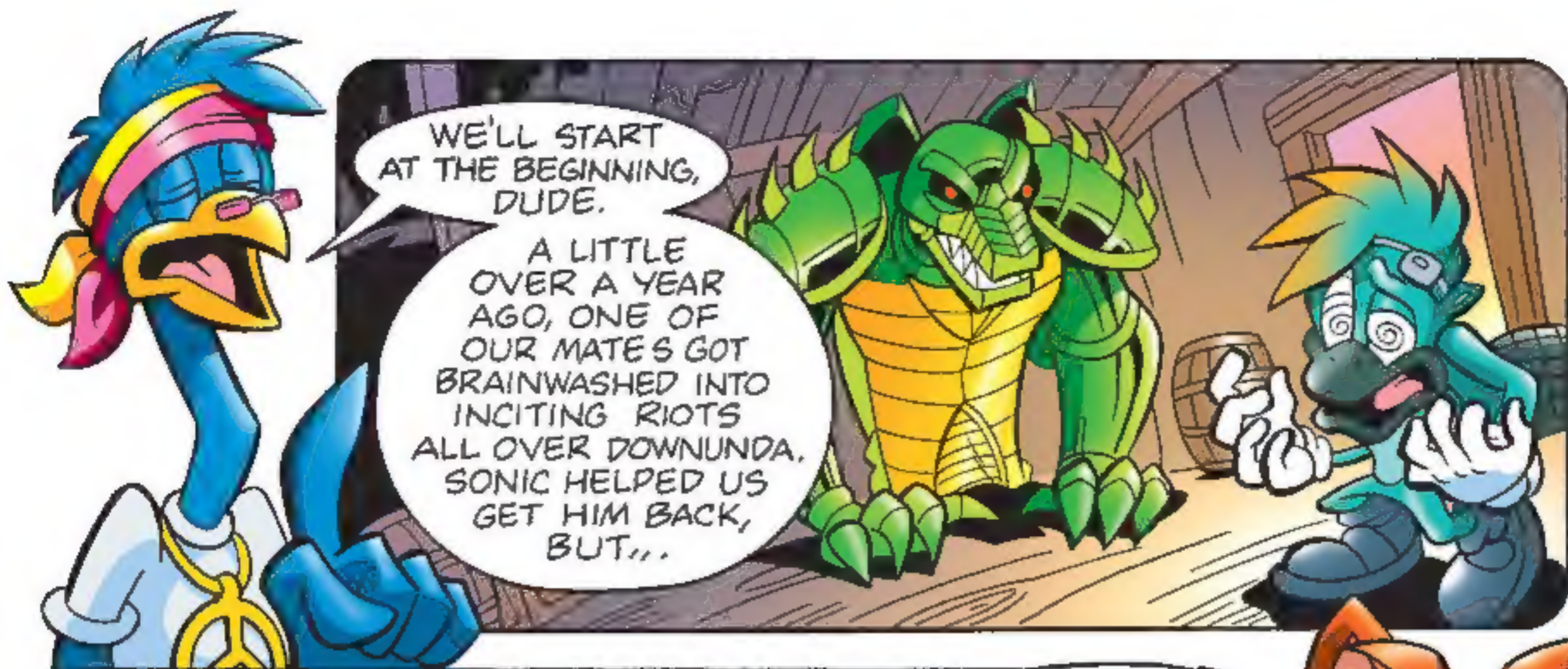
DARK EGG LEGION?

HERE?

SURE, A WHOLE PLATYPUS ARMY.

WHAT?

WALT, THE LEGION IS EXCLUSIVELY ECHIDNAS AND BASED IN NEW MEGAOPOLIS.



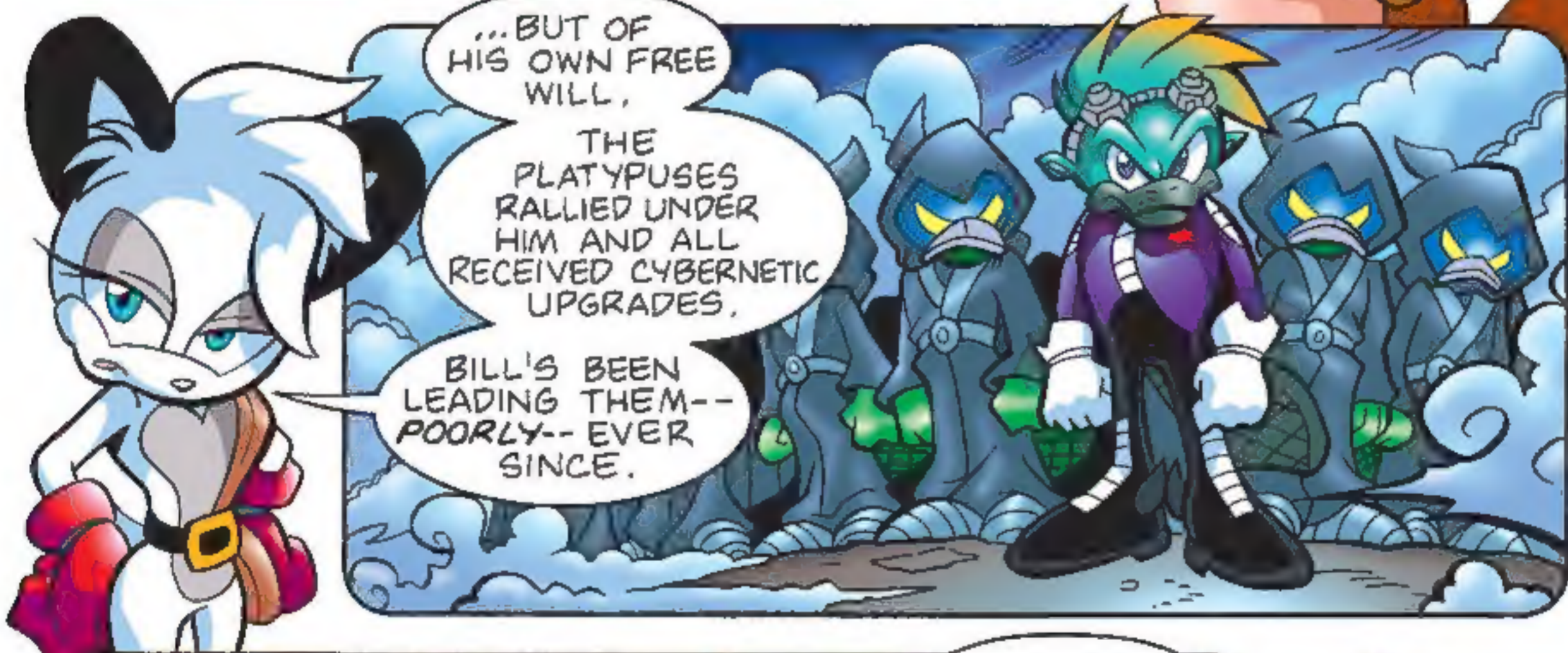
WE'LL START AT THE BEGINNING, DUDE.

A LITTLE OVER A YEAR AGO, ONE OF OUR MATE S GOT BRAINWASHED INTO INCITING RIOTS ALL OVER DOWNUNDA. SONIC HELPED US GET HIM BACK, BUT...



...MONTHS BACK, DR. ROBOTNIK MADE ANOTHER BIG PUSH TO CONTROL THE REGION.

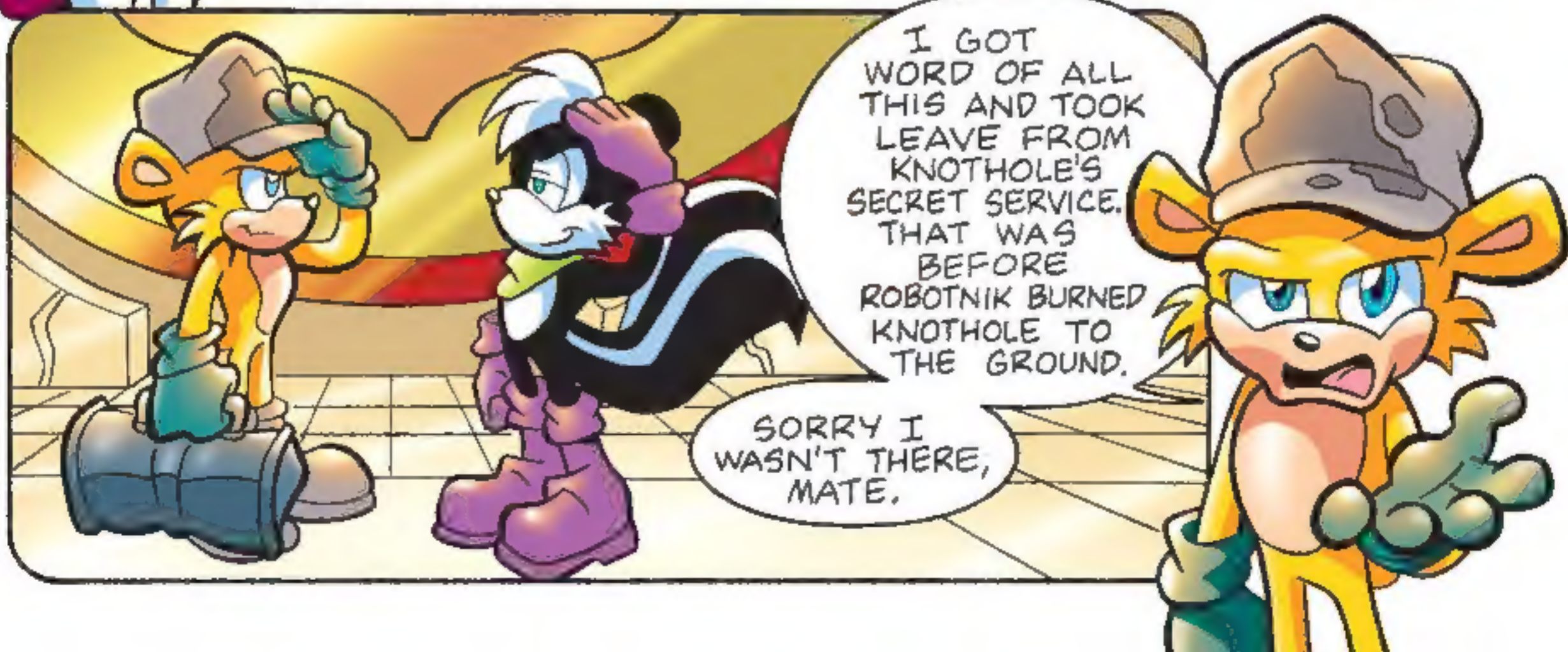
BILL JOINED HIS CAUSE AGAIN...



...BUT OF HIS OWN FREE WILL,

THE PLATYPUSES RALLIED UNDER HIM AND ALL RECEIVED CYBERNETIC UPGRADES.

BILL'S BEEN LEADING THEM-- POORLY-- EVER SINCE.



I GOT WORD OF ALL THIS AND TOOK LEAVE FROM KNOTHOLE'S SECRET SERVICE. THAT WAS BEFORE ROBOTNIK BURNED KNOTHOLE TO THE GROUND.

SORRY I WASN'T THERE, MATE.

AND THEN THRASH FILLED IN THE VACANCY IN OUR GROUP A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO.

EH, ME OWN QUEST WAS TURNIN' UP BUNKUS, SO I FIGURED I'D BUST A FEW HEADS FOR A GOOD CAUSE.

UNFORTUNATELY FOR THE LEGION, THEY JUST CHAINED MY ISLAND DOWN AND DOUBLED OUR NUMBERS.

THAT'S THE WAY TO BE! I WAS HOPING YOU'D SAY THAT!

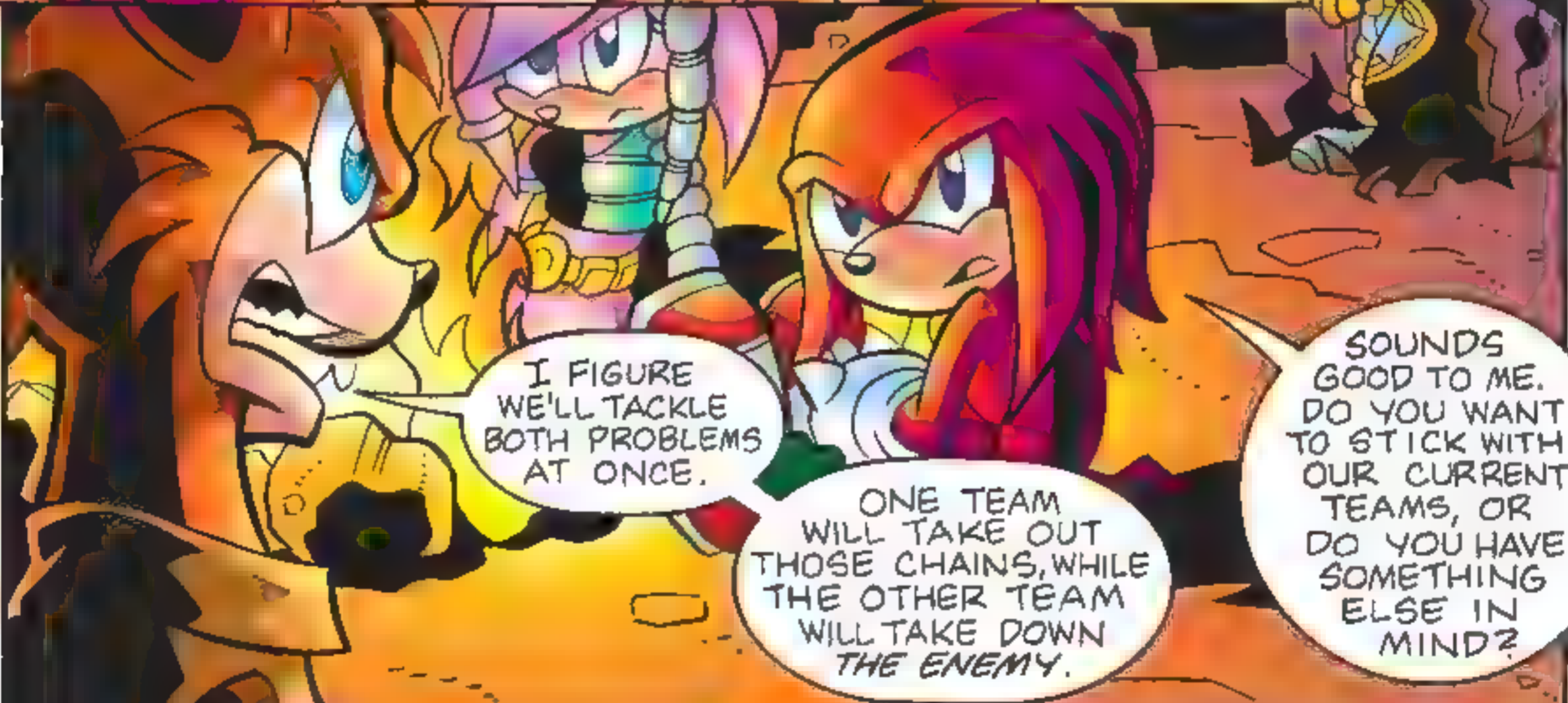
I FIGURE WE'LL TACKLE BOTH PROBLEMS AT ONCE.

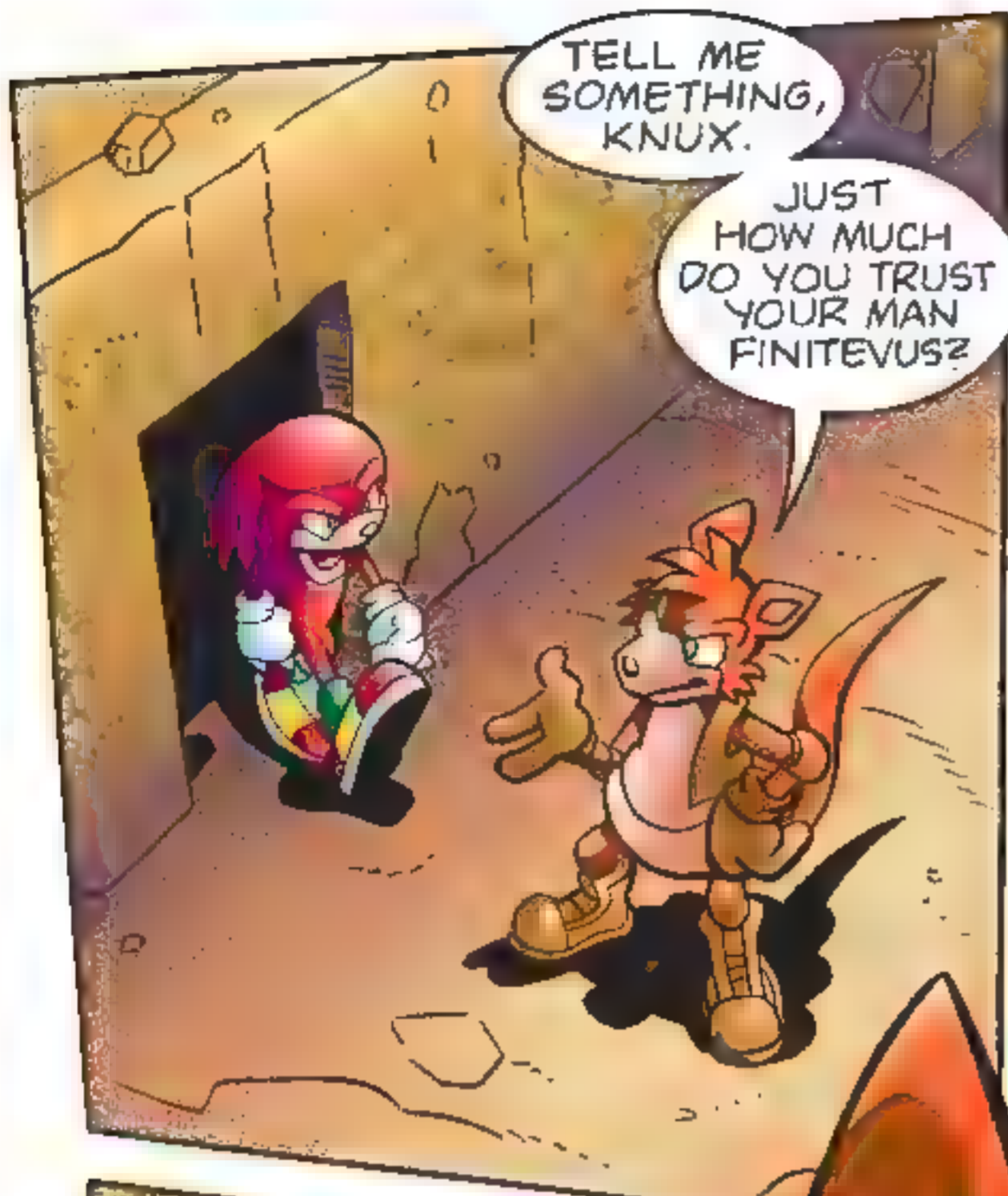
ONE TEAM WILL TAKE OUT THOSE CHAINS, WHILE THE OTHER TEAM WILL TAKE DOWN THE ENEMY.

SOUNDS GOOD TO ME. DO YOU WANT TO STICK WITH OUR CURRENT TEAMS, OR DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING ELSE IN MIND?

SOMETHING ELSE,

STEP OUT WITH ME FOR A SEC AND I'LL EXPLAIN.





TELL ME SOMETHING, KNUX.

JUST HOW MUCH DO YOU TRUST YOUR MAN FINITEVUSZ?



I DON'T.

I GLOSSED OVER SOME OF THE DETAILS, BUT HE'S RESPONSIBLE FOR MY FATHER'S DEATH.

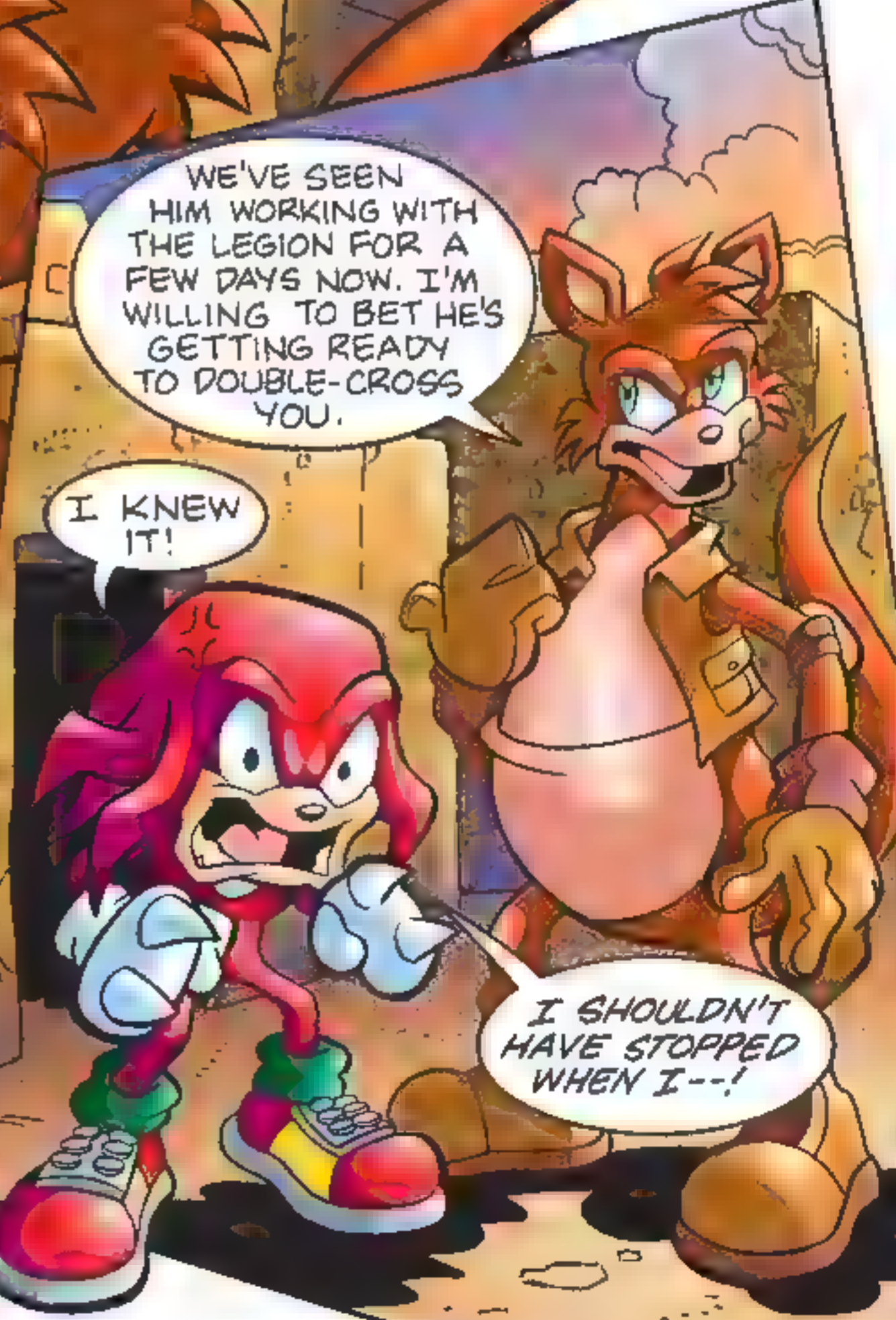


HE'S ONLY WITH US OUT OF NECESSITY RIGHT NOW.

GOOD.

"GOOD"?

I WAS AFRAID I WAS LAYING BAD NEWS AT YOUR FEET, MATE.



WE'VE SEEN HIM WORKING WITH THE LEGION FOR A FEW DAYS NOW. I'M WILLING TO BET HE'S GETTING READY TO DOUBLE-CROSS YOU.

I KNEW IT!

I SHOULDN'T HAVE STOPPED WHEN I---!



SIMMER
DOWN, MATE.
THE SITUATION
IS WELL IN HAND.
I PLANNED FOR
THIS.

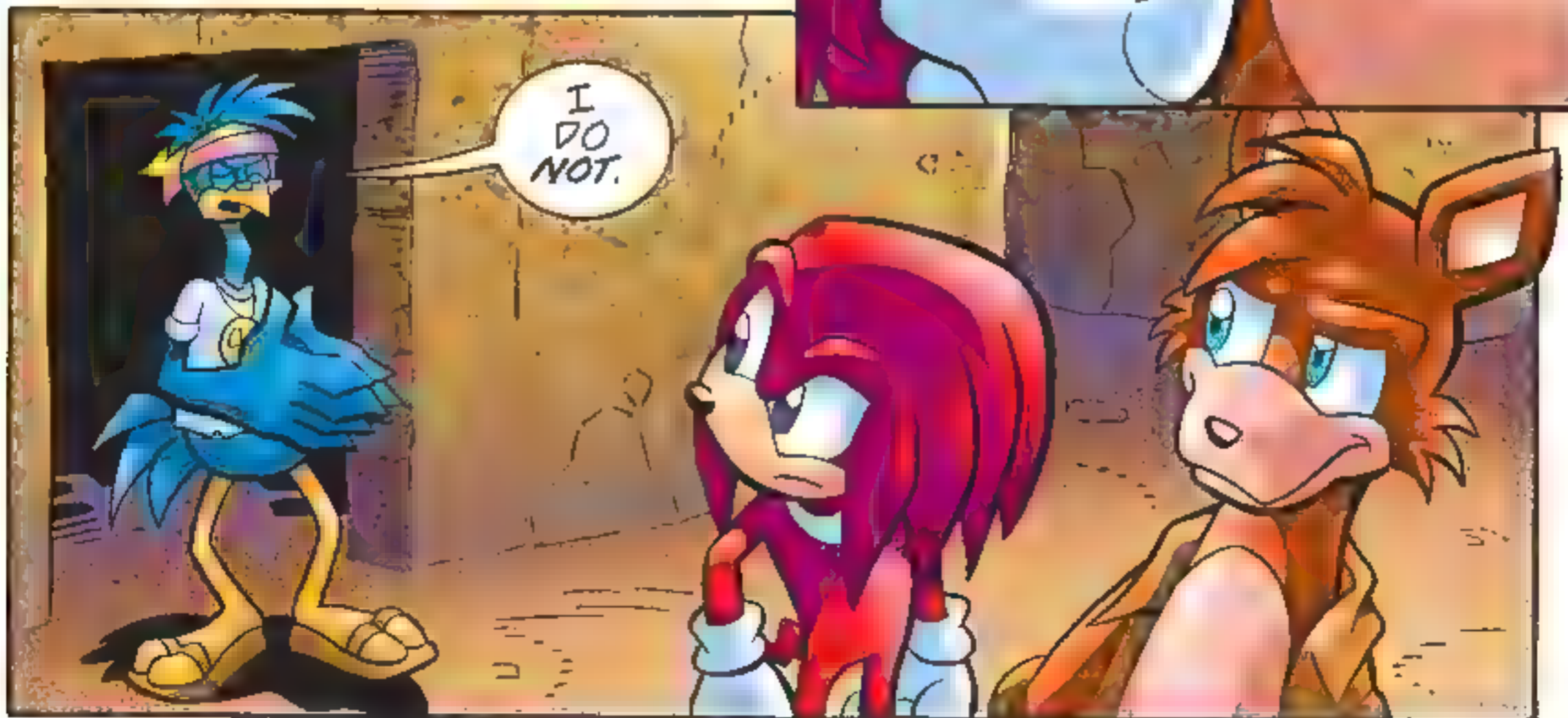


YOU
TAKE YOUR
BLOKES UP TO
THE RIM AND GET
YOUR HOME BACK
ON COURSE.



WE'LL TAKE
FINITEVUS WITH
US, BUT HE WON'T
BE COMING BACK.
NOT TO STEAL YOUR
THUNDER, OF
COURSE...

NO, IT'S
OKAY. MAYBE
IT'S BETTER OUT
OF MY HANDS,
I LIKE THAT
PLAN.



I
DO
NOT.

MY NONVIOLENT WAYS ASIDE, GANGING UP ON SOMEONE IS BAD KARMA, MAN.

THEN YOU GO WITH THE CHAOTIX AND HELP THEM FREE THEIR HOME, WILL THAT WORK FOR YOU, GURU?

FINITEVUS, YOU'RE WITH THE DOWNUNDA FREEDOM FIGHTERS. MEET UP OUTSIDE.

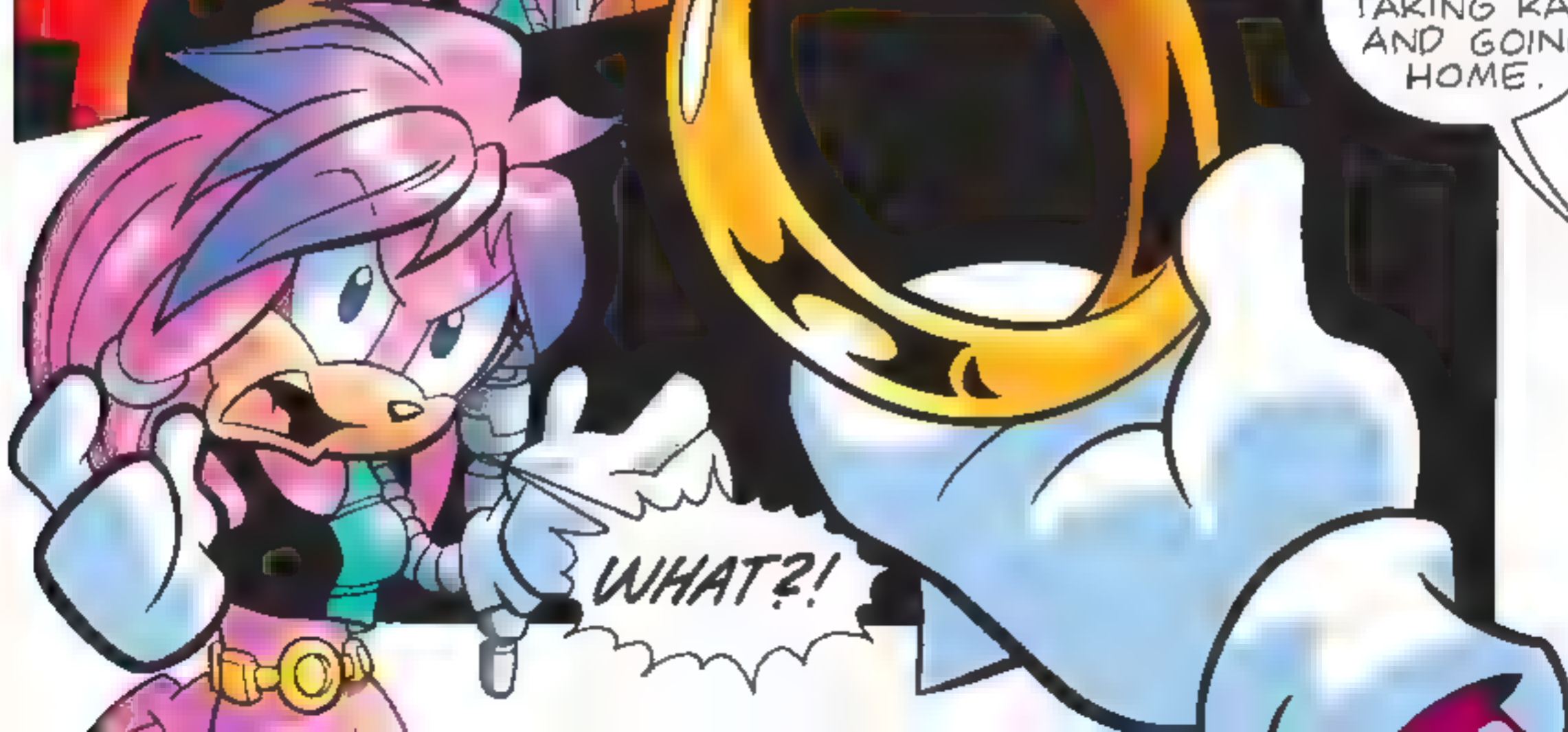
SHA.



GURU WILL GO WITH THE THREE OF US WHEN WE ATTACK THE CRATER'S RIM.

YOU'RE LEAVING OUT TWO PEOPLE, HON.

NO, I'M NOT. YOU'RE TAKING RAY AND GOING HOME.

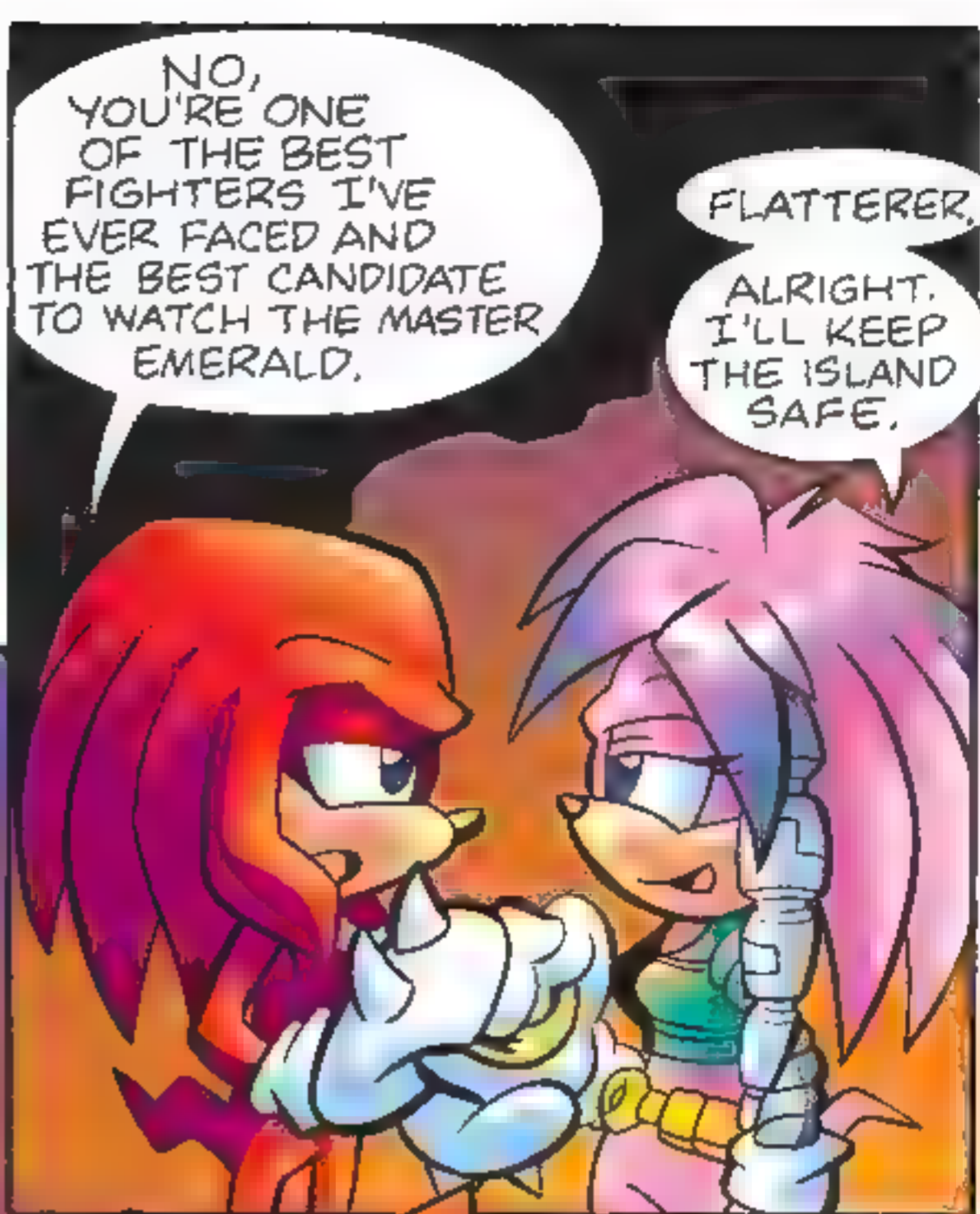


WHAT?!



I NEED YOU TO WATCH OUR BACKS, AND RAY CAN HELP.

ALL THE WAY UP ON ANGEL ISLAND, HUH? I'M NOT A SNIPER, KNUCKLES.



NO, YOU'RE ONE OF THE BEST FIGHTERS I'VE EVER FACED AND THE BEST CANDIDATE TO WATCH THE MASTER EMERALD.

FLATTERER. ALRIGHT, I'LL KEEP THE ISLAND SAFE.

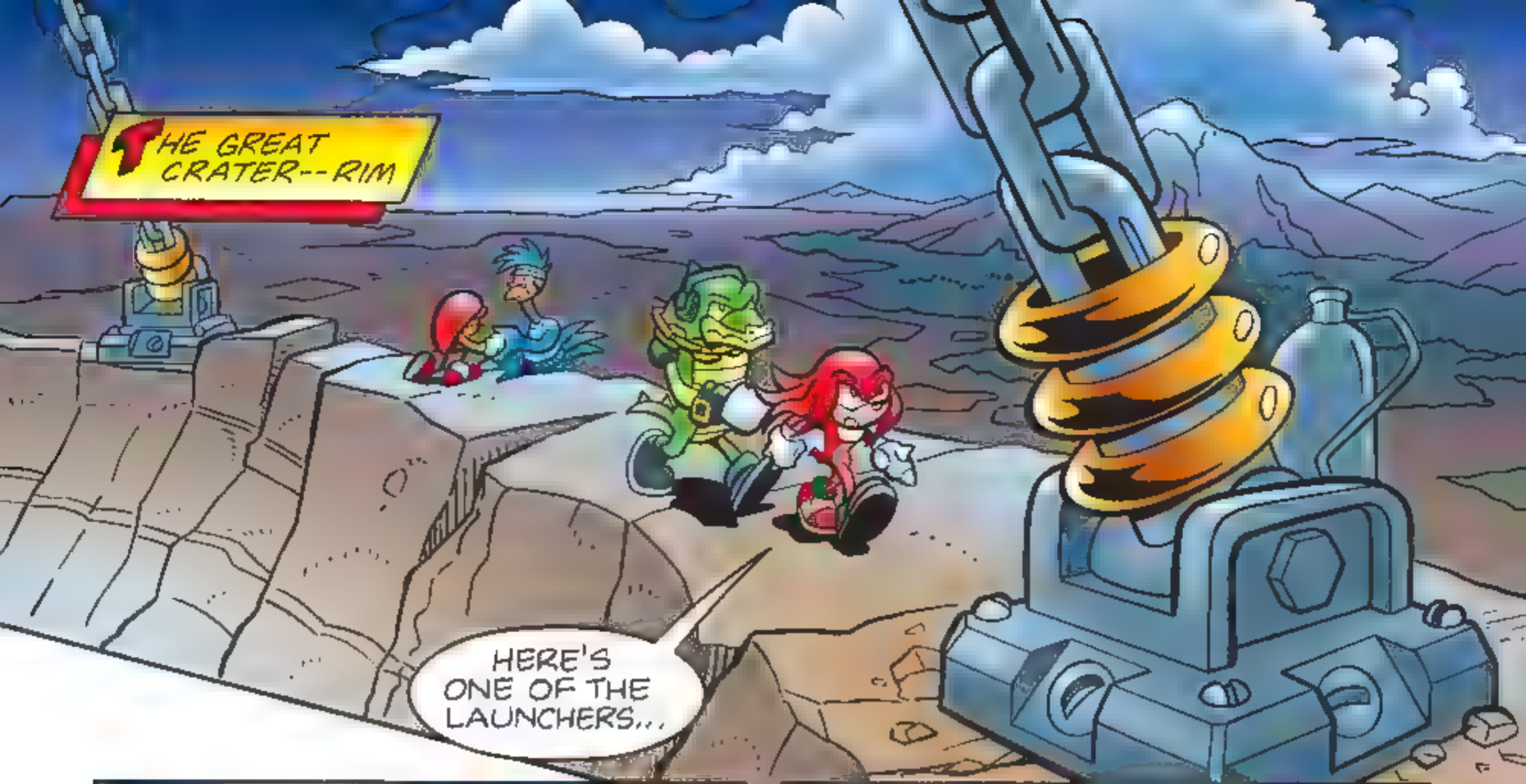


SINCE WHEN WAS "YOU CAN KICK MY BUTT" A ROMANTIC LINE?

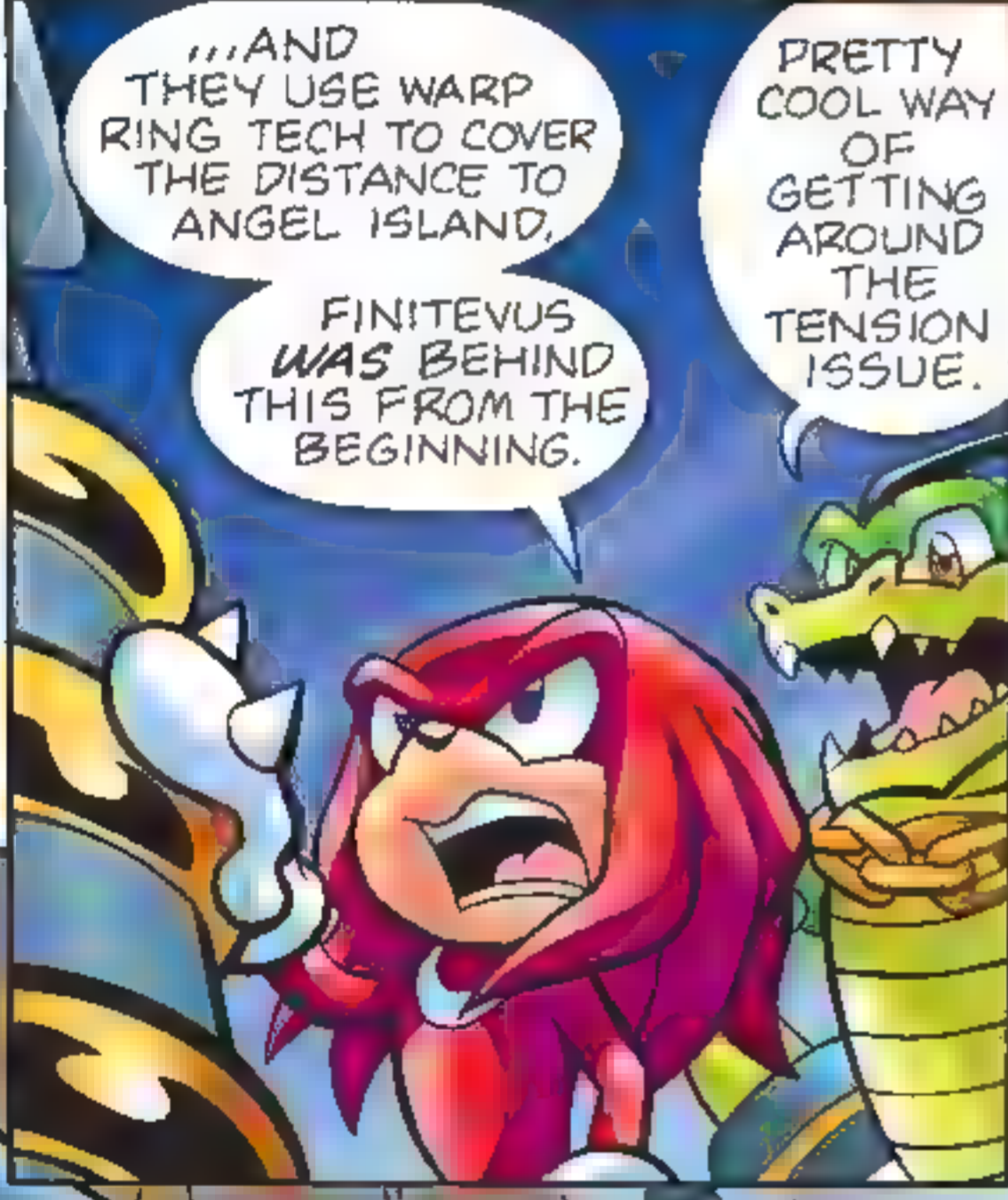
DUDE, I STILL THINK HE'S TRIPPIN' RINGS TO BE DATING HER.

BYE, MIGHTY! SEE YOU WHEN YOU GET BACK.

THE GREAT CRATER--RIM



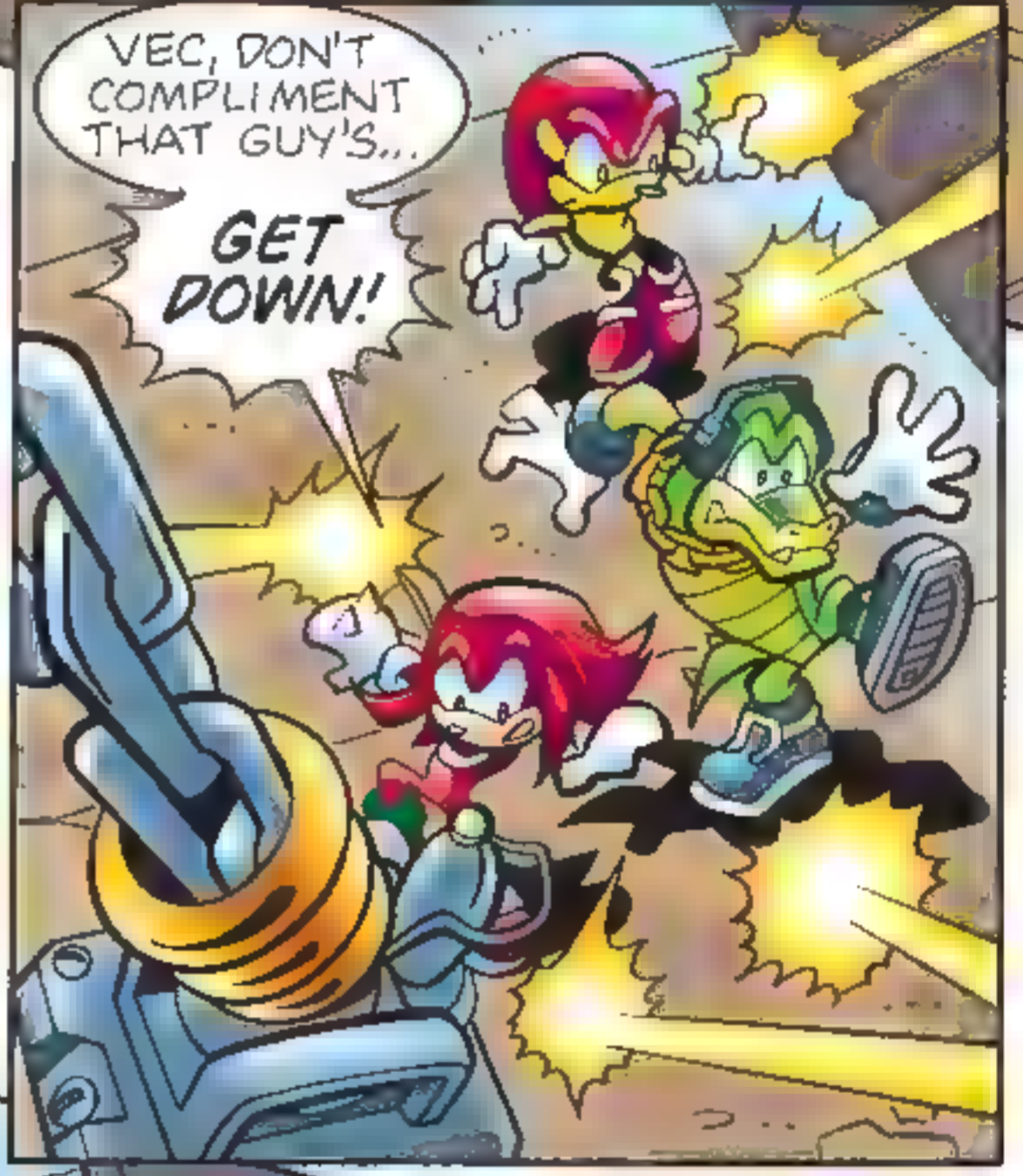
HERE'S ONE OF THE LAUNCHERS...



...AND THEY USE WARP RING TECH TO COVER THE DISTANCE TO ANGEL ISLAND,

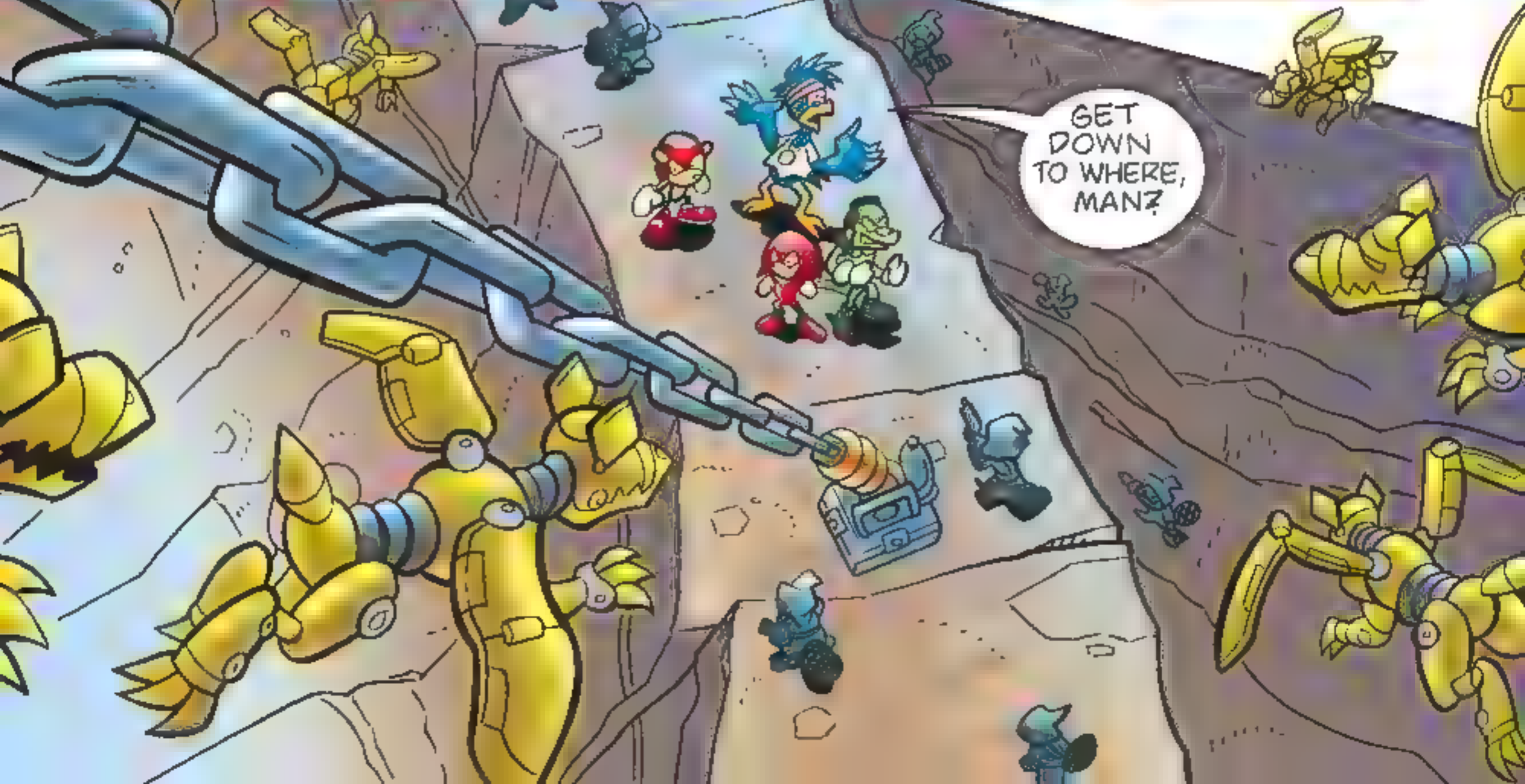
FINITEVUS WAS BEHIND THIS FROM THE BEGINNING.

PRETTY COOL WAY OF GETTING AROUND THE TENSION ISSUE.



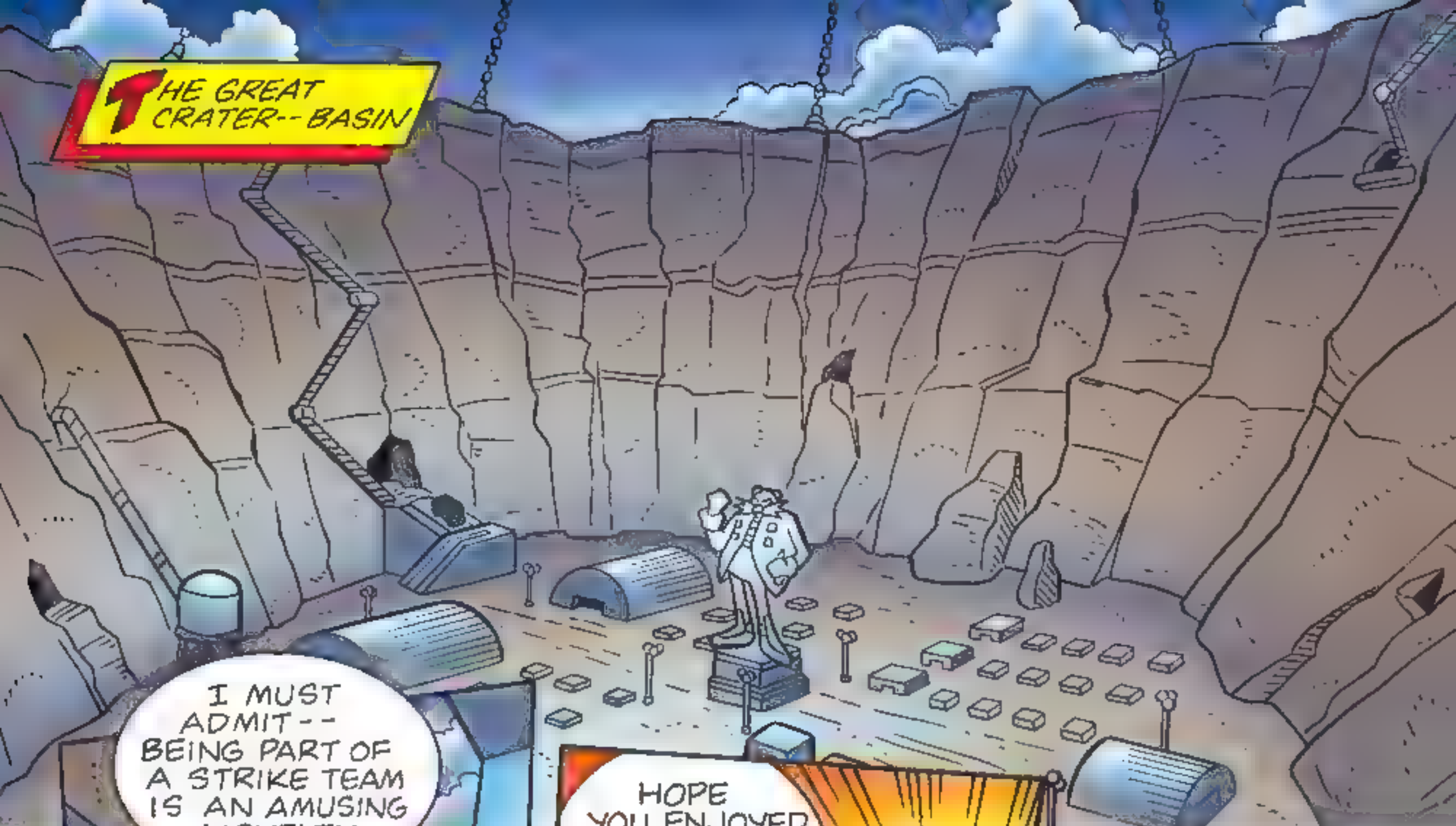
VEC, DON'T COMPLIMENT THAT GUY'S...

GET DOWN!




GET DOWN TO WHERE, MAN?

THE GREAT CRATER--BASIN



I MUST ADMIT-- BEING PART OF A STRIKE TEAM IS AN AMUSING NOVELTY.



HOPE YOU ENJOYED IT, CHUM. YOU AIN'T GOT MUCH LEFT TO LOOK FORWARD TO.




KEEP THIS PROFESSIONAL, THRASH.



QUICK, QUIET, AND WE FIND BILL,



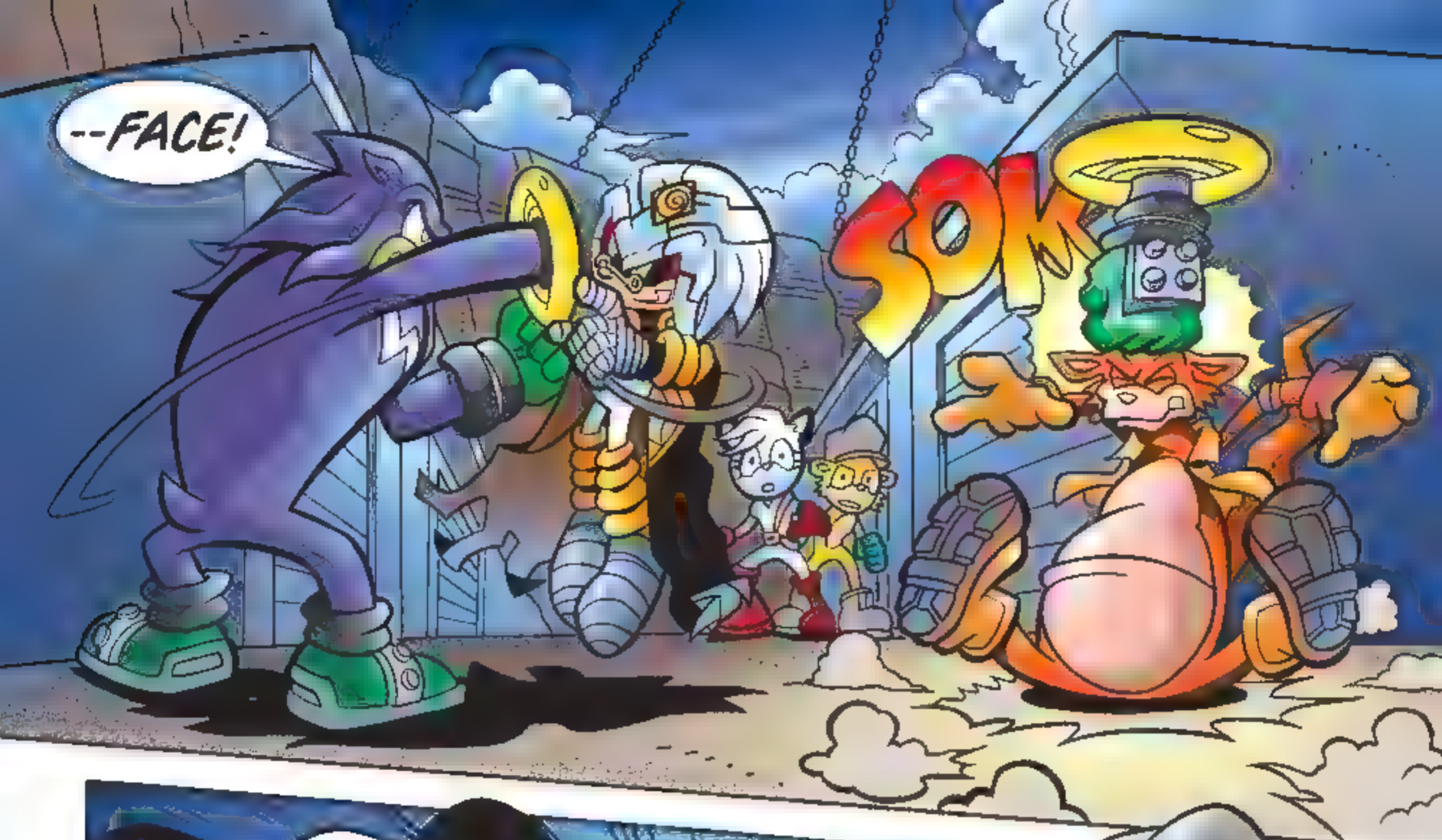
WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT FROM HIM?



HIS "BREED" IS USELESS NEXT TO THE REST OF THE MONGRELS MY KIND PERFECTED.

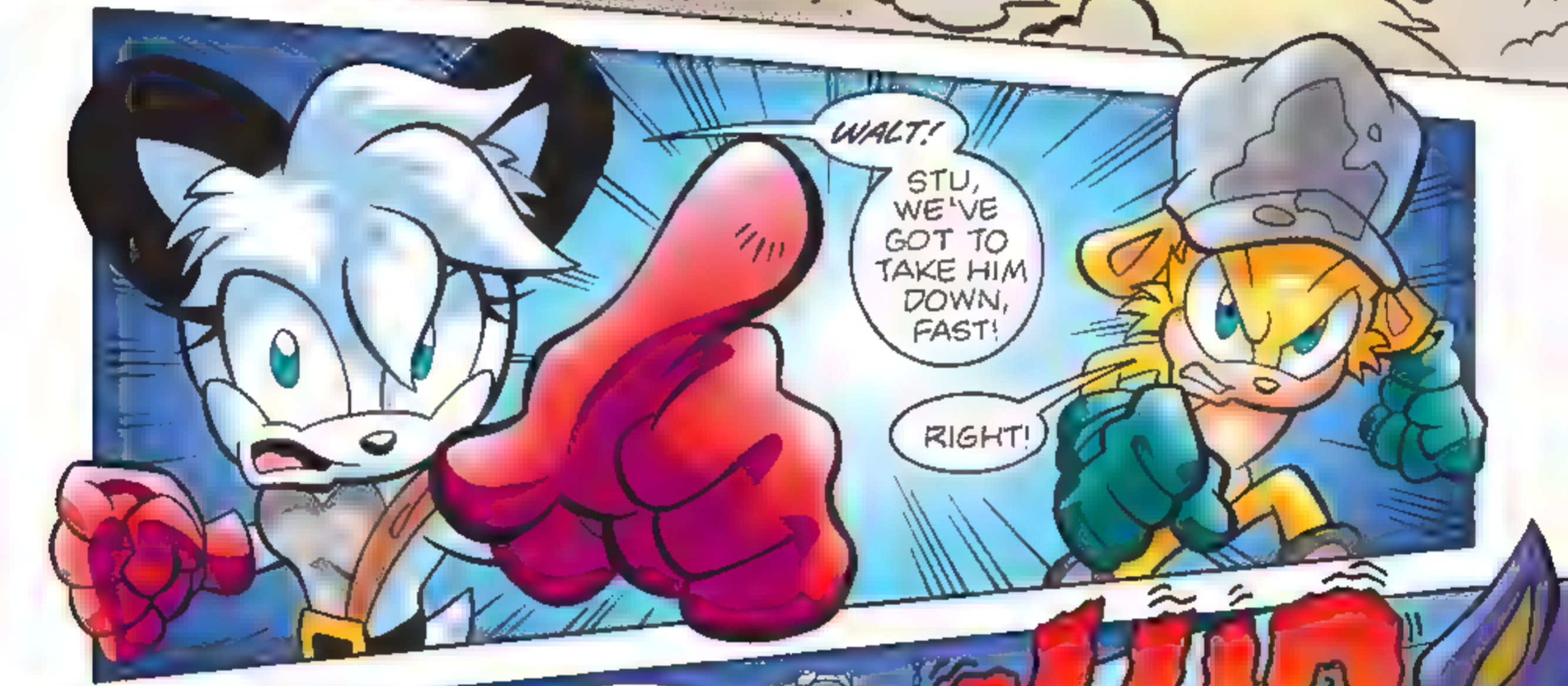


YOU-- SHUT-- YOUR-- FILTHY--



--FACE!

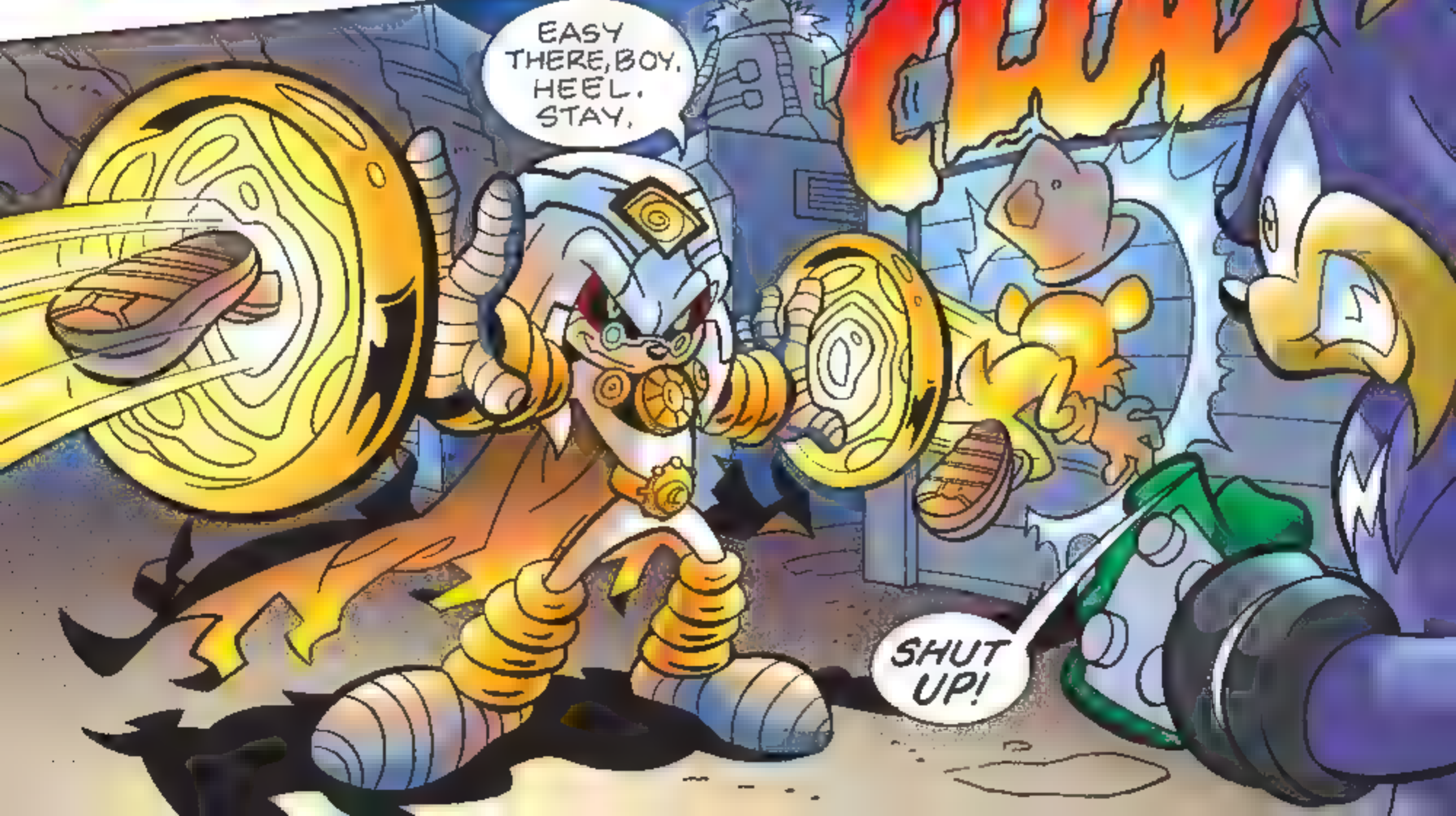
SOK



WALT!

STU,
WE'VE
GOT TO
TAKE HIM
DOWN,
FAST!

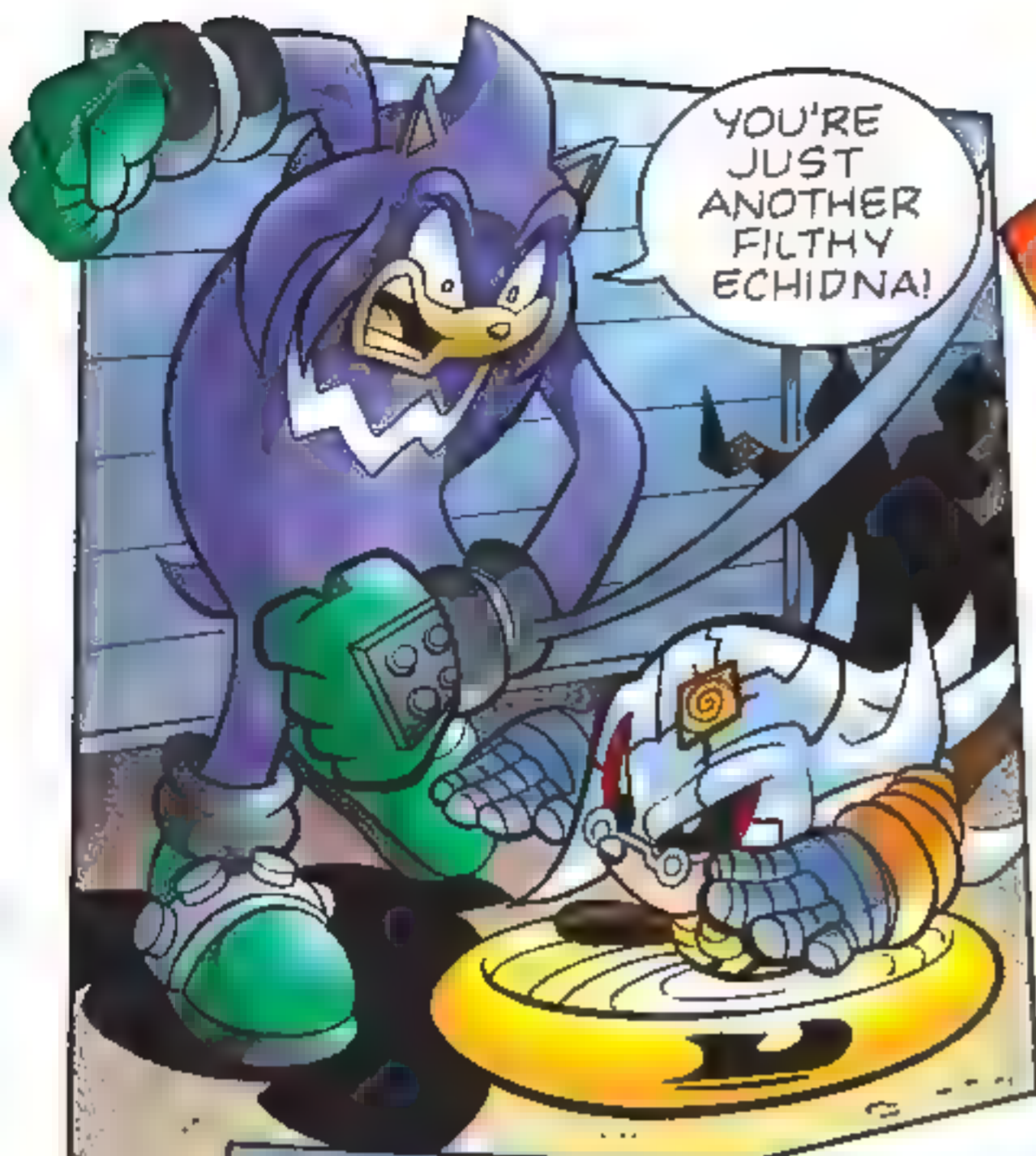
RIGHT!



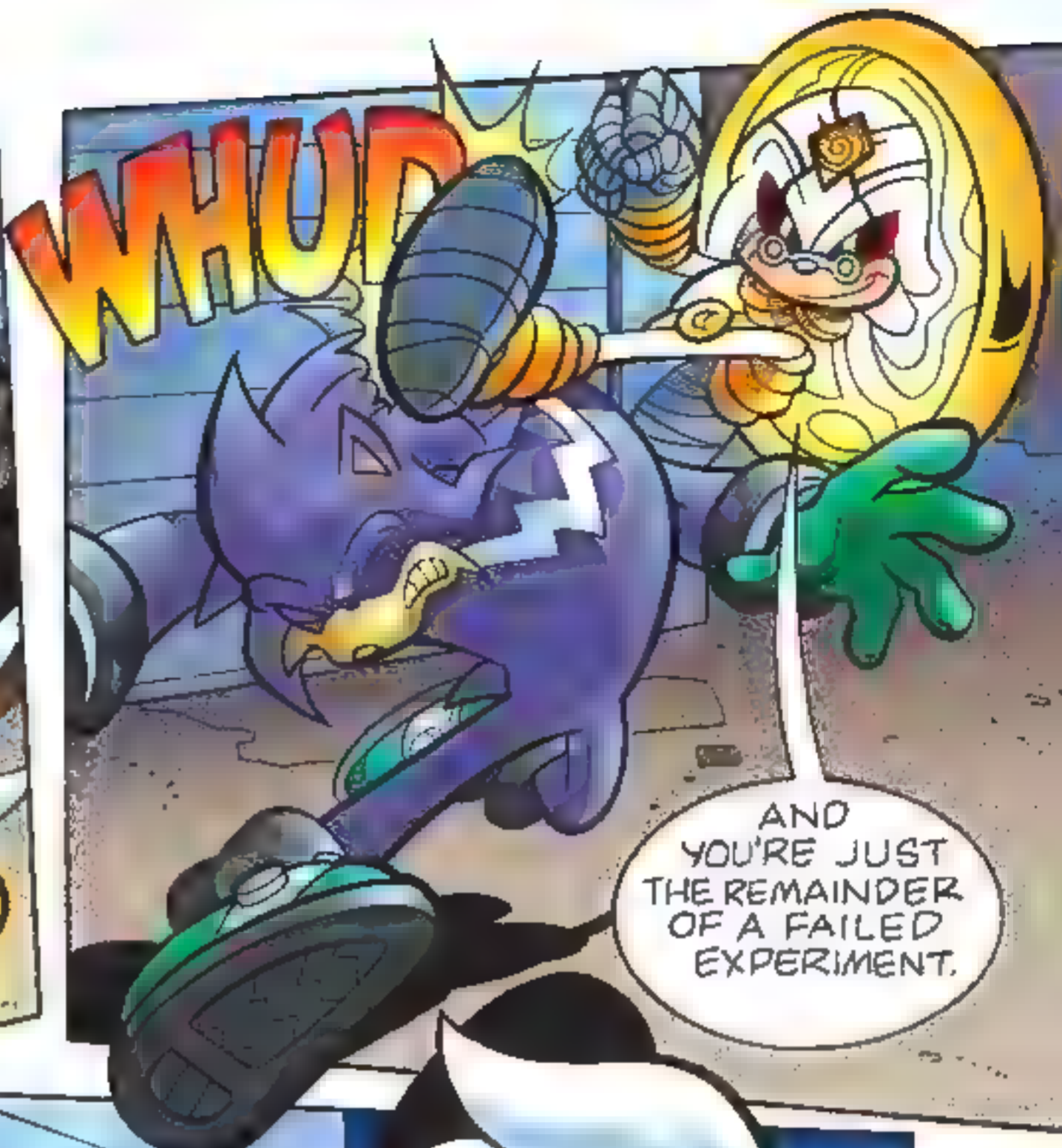
EASY
THERE, BOY.
HEEL.
STAY.

CLWO

SHUT
UP!



YOU'RE JUST ANOTHER FILTHY ECHIDNA!



WHUD

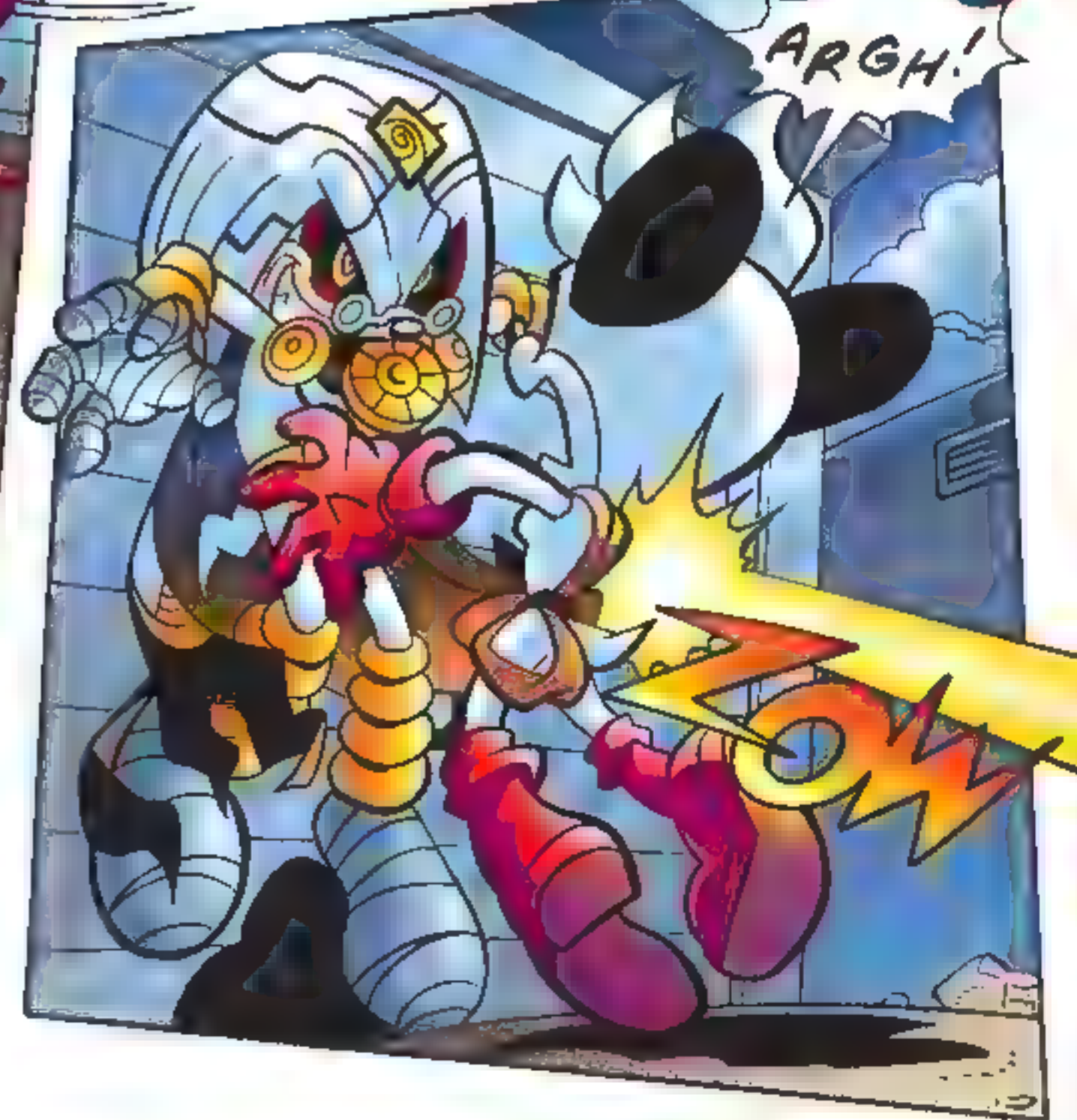
AND YOU'RE JUST THE REMAINDER OF A FAILED EXPERIMENT.



GAK!



NEVER SEND A THUG TO DO A MERCENARY'S JOB.



ARGH!

LOW



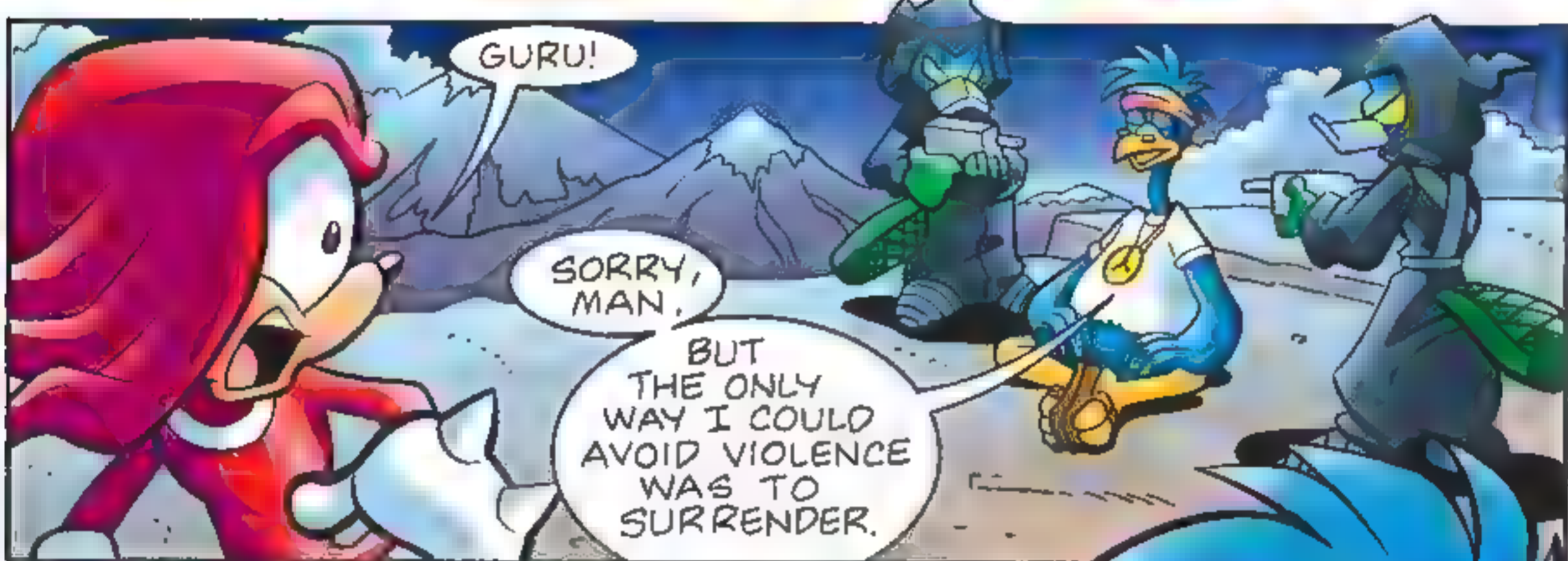
VECTOR!
MIGHTY'S
OUT!

GRAB
HIM WHILE
I GO FOR THE
LAUNCHER!



SORRY
KNUCKLES!

BLAST IT!
GURU!
GO AFTER
MIGHTY
WHILE I GET
VECTOR!



GURU!

SORRY,
MAN.

BUT
THE ONLY
WAY I COULD
AVOID VIOLENCE
WAS TO
SURRENDER.



YOU'VE
GOT TO BE
KIDDING
ME!

VIOLENCE
IS RARELY THE
ANSWER.

YOU HAVE
TO LISTEN TO
THE DREAMTIME.
EVERYTHING IS
CONNECTED. WE
WE ARE MEANT TO
BE SOMEWHERE.

FINE!
MORE FOR
ME!
BRING
IT ON
YOU---



ZOWIE
ZOWIE
ZOWIE

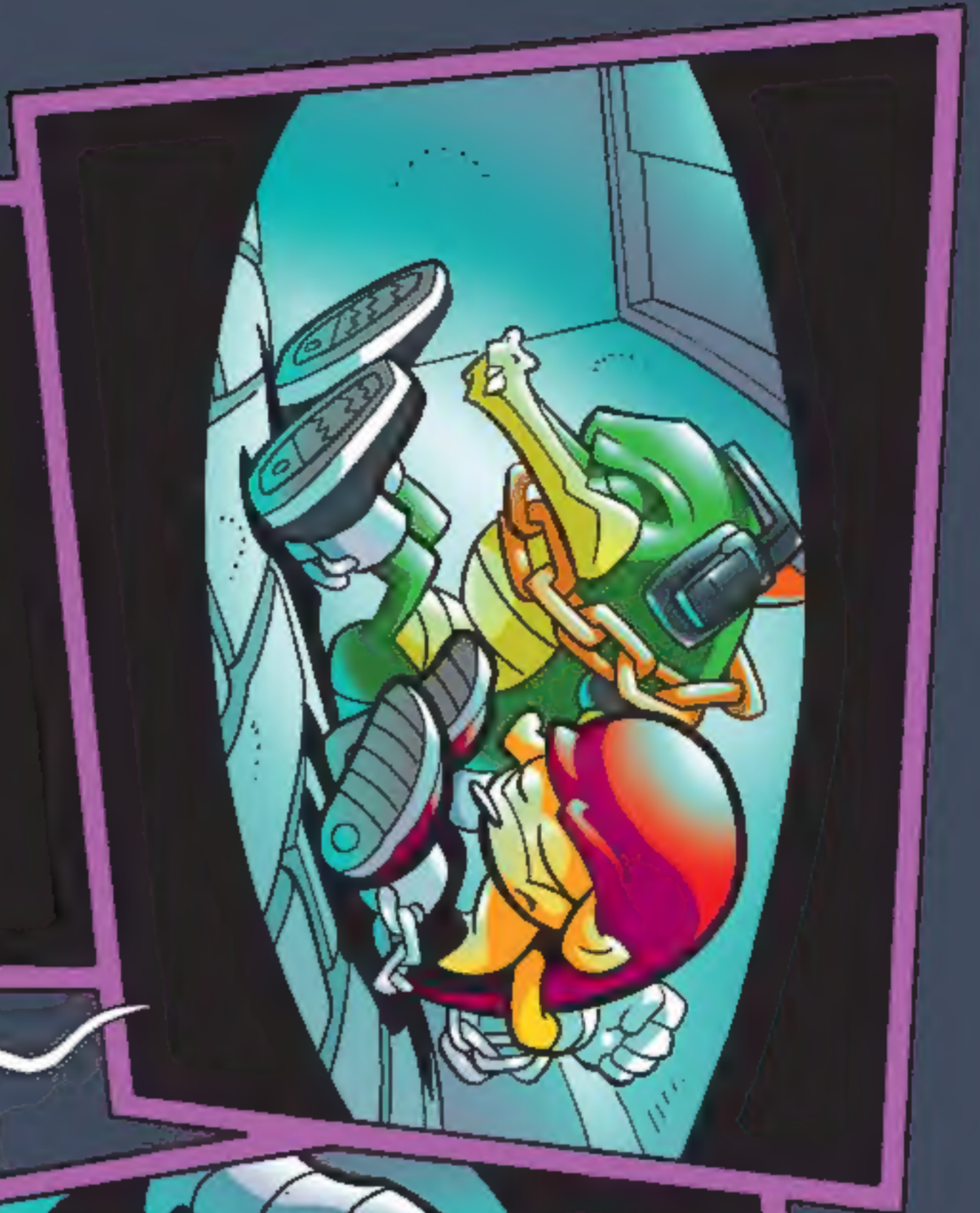
RRRGH!

g... guru...



YOU
SHOULD'VE
GONE WITH
THE FLOW,
MAN.





ungh...
mighty?
vector?



AND THE
DOWNUNDA
FREEDOM
FIGHTERS,
WONDERFUL,

AT LAST!
FOR A MOMENT,
I FEARED THE
LEGION HAD
FINISHED YOU
OFF,

NO SUCH
LUCK,

OF COURSE.
YOU WOULDN'T
BE A GUARDIAN IF
YOU DIDN'T STUBBORNLY
DELAY THE
INEVITABLE!

**The Chaotix and Downunda Freedom
Fighters – down and out?!**

**How can they escape from the den
of the enemy?**

And what about Angel Island?

Don't miss the exciting conclusion in

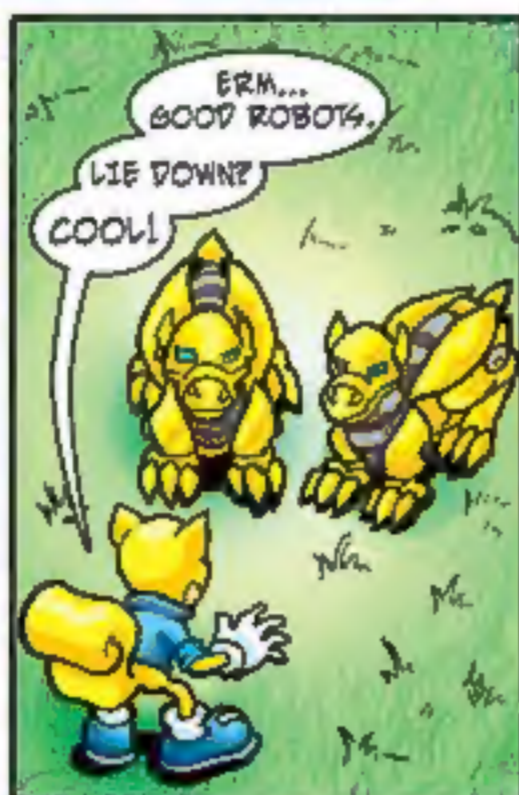
SONIC UNIVERSE #12!



OFF-PANEL

ECHOES of the PAST

"RAY SAVES THE DAY"



SCRIPT: IAN FLYNN PENCILS: JAMAL PEPPERS INKS/COLORS: PAUL KAMINSKI



OFF-PANEL

ECHOES of the PAST

"GOTCHA"



SCRIPT: IAN FLYNN PENCILS: JAMAL PEPPERS INKS/COLORS: PAUL KAMINSKI



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